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THURSDAY MARCH 12TH, 2020

Covid-19 cruise ship family return home - see page three

Mother's Day
SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND 2020

Council tax bills will be going up by 4.9%

THE Vale Council has agreed a Council Tax increase of 4.9% following a meeting last week.

This is the same rise as last year and is likely to see council tax in the Vale remain well below the average for other Welsh Local Authorities.

A range of options were being considered, all of which were subject to consultation as part of the Council's budget-setting process.

The options included greater increases, which would have brought Council Tax in the Valein line with the Welsh average.

However, a better than expected financial settlement from Welsh Government has helped ease the pressure on certain vital services.

The budget will now make it possible to invest in these vital and essential public services:

• Schools will receive an extra £6 million in the coming year, with £115 million identified during the next two years to build new schools and renovate existing ones.

• £1.7 million is to be spent on road resurfacing to improve the Vale's highway network.

• £400,000 will be invested into the area of Neighbourhood Services and Transport.

• £135,000 has been pledged to deliver school transport – avoiding the need to scale back current provision.

• £1.25 million will be put towards future projects aimed at tackling climate change.

• On top of that, nearly £250,000 is earmarked for electric vehicles to be added to the Council's pool car fleet.

Despite this investment, these remain testing times for councils across Wales and tough decisions will still need to be taken following 10 years of austerity.

Cllr Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale Council, said: "We have listened to residents when it comes to setting Council Tax for the next financial year. Three times the average number of people responded to our recent consultation on this matter. The majority recognised the substantial pressures on Council services and indicated they would prefer an increase in Council Tax of 4.9% rather than greater increases.

"What we have been able to deliver is exactly that increase, but without the need to cut many services. On top of that, our budget for the next 12 months includes plans for significant investment in schools, which will mean better facilities and improved learning environments for our children, as well as money to be spent on infrastructure throughout the County.

"This has been made possible through prudent financial management, but also because of an increase in funding from Welsh Government.

"However, it is important to stress that even though this encouraging news about funding is most welcome, it does not mean all financial challenges have been overcome. We will still have some difficult issues to address brought about by the decade-long underfunding of councils across Wales. We will attempt to be creative in meeting this challenge, aiming to improve efficiency by reshaping services and avoiding cuts wherever possible."

Barry man remembered his local RNLI Station

WHEN Barry man Phil Weir passed away last year, his family were conscious of their connections with their local RNLI station.

As a result, Lynne Bolton, Valerie Weir and Pauline Todd visited Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat station this week to present coxwain Martin Bowmer with a pair of Steiner binoculars, after nearly £900 was raised with donations at his funeral.

The family connection goes back to Phil's father, David John Weir, who had been a crewman on Barry Docks Arun class lifeboat.

Martin Bowmer said that without the generosity of the public, it would not be possible for a charity like the RNLI to carry out its role.

Phil, also known as Oodle, was well know locally for DJing the 'Old Record Club' around local pubs.

Photograph supplied by RNLI/Nigel Parry.

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address, contact telephone number. We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Final nail in coffin for airport

I FEEL that airline Flybe departing from Cardiff is the final nail in the coffin for the airport.

When interviewed last Thursday, the airport manager stated it was business as usual, but there was not a passenger anywhere inside or out at 1.45pm.

Bad investment and bad management all helped to finish off the airport. No more bad money after good from the taxpayer.

It will end up as the biggest development site in the Vale for a number of years.

It's Bristol from now on – a great airport and thriving, thank goodness.

Mike Clemett, Barry.

Welcome return for endangered species

AT a recent wildlife conservation talk by David Bavin members and supporters of Barry Action for Nature were told of the work being carried out to support the return of the pine marten to Welsh forests.

Pine martens were native to Wales but due to extensive persecution by gamekeepers and farmers during the 19th and 20th centuries, they became extinct. There are now plans to encourage their return to Welsh forests.

Ironically, the return of pine martens into their former range may prove a godsend for another struggling native mammal. New research shows that red squirrels are able to recolonise in their wake. The story of the retreat of red squirrels in the face of the advance of North American greys, introduced to the UK just over a century ago, is a familiar one.

But recent research shows that red squirrels are able to avoid predation by pine martens by finding refuge at the end of thinner canopy branches, where the heavier greys are unable to take advantage.

Alas, their return to Wales will take many decades, but bringing back a greater balance to our woodlands can only be welcomed.

Rob Curtis, Barry.

Defibrillator training – even a child can do it

DURING half term, we attended CPR and Defibrillator Training in Llantwit.

My two children, Macie (8) and Sofia (6), really enjoyed the course and learnt a lot about how to save a life.

The trainers from St John Ambulance were fabulous with my children and explained everything to them in a way they could understand. They even had Macie as a helper to demonstrate to a room full of adults how simple it is to use a defibrillator. We learned what to do in an emergency, how to do CPR and how to use a defibrillator.

Last year, a man died in front of me at a charity event. He was the same age as my dad and was out having a great evening with his wife. Within a split second, he had a cardiac arrest and died on the floor. It was horrendous and I felt helpless not knowing exactly what to do.

Would you know what to do if one of your loved ones had a cardiac or respiratory arrest? Would you know the difference? Would you know how to use a defibrillator?

This is a free course and it could save someone's life. To book a place, contact Cllr Gordon Wilkie via email cllr.gwilkie@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk or text/call 07715 555 112. See also www.facebook.com/SJCWLlantwitMajor/.

Thank you to Cllr Gordon Wilkie for organising the training.

Charlotte Cook, Llantwit Major.

Kerb issue is not a new one

I was pleased to see in last week's Gem a letter from Karl-James Langford relating to the lack of dropped kerbs in the Vale of Glamorgan, and the problems for wheelchair users.

This is not a new problem; I have contacted the Vale Council many times over this issue. In one case, it took nearly three years to get a dropped kerb installed on Severn Avenue, but there are many more that need to be constructed.

As kerbs seem to be getting higher than the ones of years gone by, the problem seems to be getting worse, not better.

Most power wheelchairs will struggle to climb a kerb of more than 70mm without endangering the occupant, and as these chairs can weigh over 150kg plus the occupant, trying to lift a chair is not really feasible.

Another problem is that many drivers will park across dropped kerbs as they are not always adequately marked; this is another matter I have raised with the council, but the usual reply is 'we haven't got the finances'.

Richard Enos, Barry.

Excellent bus service

MAY I use The Gem to remind residents and neighbours of Highlight Park, Barry, of the excellent service provided by the T9 service to and from Cardiff Bay and Cardiff city centre.

Every 20 minutes or so, from the fire station, and the journey takes only 30 minutes.

With the current reduction of flights from Rhoose, the T9 service needs your support.

D Robinson, Barry.

Distressed swan helped by vet

MANY thanks to the young vet from Medivet Cowbridge who provided the expertise needed to capture a distressed and disoriented immature black swan that was wandering along Middlegate Court, Cowbridge, (February 29).

I am pleased to report that the bird was not otherwise injured and was subsequently released safely.

S Monaghan, Cowbridge.

'Pupils subjected to indoctrination'

PARENTS' rights to withdraw their children from school religious classes is long established.

Yet the Welsh Government proposes to scrap the right to withdraw just at the time when they are inserting contentious RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) into the primary curriculum.

Parents polled by large majority to retain the right to withdraw, even when mixed with other questions in the second consultation last November, called 'Access to the Full Curriculum', and 60% polled to retain it.

It's not difficult to spot the hidden agenda. The Welsh Government documents on the curriculum use Stonewall's term 'LGBTQI+', which ignores the independent L or LGB organisations.

They ignore too women's organisations such as FairPlayForWomen, WomansPlaceUK and Transgendertrend.

Stonewall's ideology as promoted in books for ages 4-8 is that children might be 'born in the wrong body' and can choose to be boy or girl. Stonewall would encourage children onto the fashionable trans pathway, when they are quite immature, pre-puberty.

It's not just outrageous that the Welsh Government would bring this into primary schools, still less make it compulsory. The state must provide education in an 'objective, critical, and pluralistic manner' and is prohibited in the Education Act (1996) from engaging in 'indoctrination'.

We humanists have come out strongly because their proposals transgress the freedom of religion or belief. Welsh Humanists say the proposed new law seriously risks exposing pupils to unlawful indoctrination and issued a legal opinion from Prof Malcolm Evans of Bristol University in support of that.

We don't yet know for certain what the Welsh Government will put in the curriculum, but as the Birmingham school fracas showed, parental rights to withdraw are an essential 'safety valve'.

Max Wallis, Penarth.

Tales of the riverbank

'THE Return of the Otter' by Oscar Wainwright (The Vale Nature Diary, February 22) was an enjoyable read; his fluid writing style and contagious enthusiasm were evident.

Some years ago, I saw a large mustelid at dusk on a deposition bank along the River Ewenny Fach, south of Pencoed.

When it saw me, it about turned and returned to the water. At the time, I guessed that it was an otter but apparently mink are also found along our watercourses.

A knowledgeable friend said that mink looks darker, so doubt about the true identity has lingered.

Simon Warmingham, Pencoed.

To whom it may concern

WE are writing to First Group Cymru in our capacity as county borough councillors for the three council wards primarily served by bus routes 68 and 69, out of Bridgend bus station.

We have recently been made aware of the proposed cut in services to the 69 Cefn Glas Circular bus on Saturday afternoons, a long-standing service which is a vital network that allows people to move freely and safely around our community while connecting us to our town. Many residents have contacted us telling us of their deep concern. Some have said they will have to rearrange their finish times at work so that they would be able to catch the train from Cardiff or Swansea and arrive in Bridgend in enough time to catch the last service.

Although 69 covers a similar route to 68, we are aware that some people use the 69 because it goes closer to their home which, for many elderly or disabled residents, is vital for them and the cut could lead to social isolation and other issues.

When both the frequency and the convenience of a bus service are reduced, this leads to a downward spiral in usage which has the consequence of even less patronage, and can therefore be a self-defeating policy.

We therefore ask you to consider, instead of cutting the service, to maintain it and market it more effectively.

We never see any publicity for the service, and there appears to be little or no attempt to broaden the market beyond those who have concessionary travel cards. Where are the adverts reminding people that this is a fast, regular, reliable and frequent service, which is good for the environment and avoids town centre parking charges? We are told by our constituents that your prices are too high.

We appreciate that you issue rover-type day tickets, but these are not routinely offered by drivers nor advertised on or in the buses. If two or more people are travelling together, a taxi often becomes more competitive.

Where are your Oyster-type cards with discounts for regular users? Where are your off-peak offers? Where is your innovation? What about an all day ticket that allows a passenger to hop on and hop off around the two circular routes over a 24 hour period? Where are your 'two travel together' offers? We are sure there are many other ideas that could be tried, to imaginatively develop the market rather than use the easy resort of cuts.

Looking ahead, we suggest that the 68/69 services would be excellent routes along which to use electric buses. We should be developing the market for these services ready for innovation of this sort. Public transportation offers a level of freedom and independence that many may not get every day and to take their service away would rob some people of their independence.

With the Welsh Assembly announcing a Climate Emergency last year, it is paramount that investment is made into public transport to offer a genuine alternative to the car. This cut would force more people to use the car, which would be detrimental to our environment in the long run.

We hope you understand our concerns and will be open to finding an amicable solution to this most pressing problem.

We ask you to cancel your proposed imminent service reduction for Route 69 and instead put some energy into boosting demand rather than cutting supply.

Councillors Jon-Paul Blundell, Charles Smith, David White from Cefn Glas, Llangewydd and Brynhyfrydd and Newcastle wards.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

The high tides listed in this week's Gem are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tides times will vary. For instance, in Barry the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

Date	Time	Height (metres)
12/03/2020	08.24	10.7
12/03/2020	20.45	10.6
13/03/2020	09.06	10.4
13/03/2020	21.24	10.2
14/03/2020	09.47	9.8
14/03/2020	22.08	9.6
15/03/2020	10.29	9.3
15/03/2020	22,52	8.9
16/03/2020	11.23	8.5
16/03/2020	23.48	8.2
17/03/2020		
17/03/2020	12.24	7.8
18/03/2020	01.05	7.6
18/03/2020	13.55	7.4
19/03/2020	02.44	7.5
19/03/2020	15.28	7.7

While the Gem makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Tel: 01446 774484 • Fax: 01446 774108

FACEBOOK: GlamorganGEM / TWITTER: gem_news • GEMSportNews

Team Leader: jan.irving@glamorgan-gem.co.uk
News Submissions: editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk
Editorial Enquiries: philip.irwin@glamorgan-gem.co.uk / TWITTER@philipGlamGEM 07891 690785
Sam Hall sam.hall@glamorgan-gem.co.uk / 07891 690798 **Ariane Hill** ariane@glamorgan-gem.co.uk
Advertising/Classified/Notices: sales@glamorgan-gem.co.uk
Distribution: glyn.gully@tindlenews.co.uk
Sales Manager: jan.irving@glamorgan-gem.co.uk • **Sales:** wendy.snatchfold@glamorgan-gem.co.uk
Accounts: swaccounts@tindlegroup.co.uk 01626 355577

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by TMP Birmingham.

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Family stranded on virus-hit ship set to return home

Lab technicians handle suspected COVID-19 inside the Specialist Virology Centre at the University Hospital of Wales. Photo credit to Ben Birchall/PA Wire

By Sam Hall
Reporter
sam.hall@glamorgan-gem co.uk

A FAMILY from Bridgend were trapped onboard a coronavirus-hit cruise ship for five days off the coast of California, it has been revealed.

Beverley Davies, her husband Geoffrey and son Stephen Evans were left stuck on the *Grand Princess* after 21 people onboard tested positive for the deadly virus.

Passengers on the cruise liner started disembarking this week after being held off the coast of San Francisco for days.

The 140 Brits on the ship boarded a UK-bound plane on Tuesday and were expected to land at Birmingham Airport yesterday evening.

They will be taken back to their homes and required to self-isolate for 14 days.

Nineteen crew members and two passengers on the *Grand Princess* tested positive for Covid-19.

The vessel, carrying 3.500 people from 54 counties, docked in the Californian city of Oakland on Tuesday this week.

A couple from Aberdare, Rhondda Cynon Taf, were also on board the cruise liner.

Authorities were alerted to the *Grand Princess* when a previous passenger died last week after contracting coronavirus.

The 71-year-old, who had an underlying health condition, had been on a trip to Mexico from San Francisco last month.

News of the passengers' return home came as Wales' chief medical officer revealed 15 people in the country had tested positive for coronavirus as of yesterday morning.

Dr Frank Atherton said seven of the patients were tested following contact tracing in connection with a Neath Port Talbot resident, whose diagnosis was confirmed at the weekend.

Of those, one is a resident of the Cardiff area, another is from the Swansea area and the other five are all from Neath Port Talbot.

The other two patients have recently returned together from northern Italy, and are residents in the Carmarthenshire area.

The Wales Specialist Virology Centre is at the heart of the operation to detect the disease in samples provided by the Welsh public who are suspected of having novel coronavirus.

The centre, based at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, is dealing with on average 50 samples a day sent from around the country, but those working around the clock in its laboratories are bracing themselves for a further increase as the virus continues to spread across the UK.

Man jailed for three years after burglary spree

By AJ Sicluna
Cardiff Crown Court reporter
editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

A SENTENCE of three years imprisonment has been passed at Cardiff Crown Court on a Barry man who was said to have previous convictions for 175 offences.

Leon Parsons (46), of Vere Streeet, admitted two charges of burglary, and two charges of attempted burglary.

In one incident, said prosecutor Bethan Evans, he was confronted in a bedroom he had broken into by a young woman who called for help.

"He appeared to be intoxicated and claimed he was waiting for a friend," said Ms Evans.

All the crimes, she said, took place during a two-hour period on January 15.

He first entered the young woman's flat in Woodlands Road and soon after tried to break into another apartment in the same block, before being chased away from the property.

The prosecutor said he then broke into the offices of a security company in Ty Newydd Road, Barry, stealing electronic equipment and causing damage of £5,000 before burgling a barber's shop in the same road and making off with hairdressing equipment, a TV and a Play Station.

He called a taxi and took the items to his home, the court heard.

When the police went there, they found items of stolen property.

Parsons said that the day before he had taken valium and heroin.

Most of his previous convictions were for offences of dishonesty, including stealing from a charity shop and stealing a blind man's jacket that he had spotted in a bar in the centre of Cardiff.

His solicitor, Adam Sharp, said: "There was no indication of any form of sophistication.

"He has had a hard life and was taking drugs, and was at one time homeless."

He said he had little recollection of what he did and suffered depression and anxiety.

"He realises he will receive a significant sentence," said Mr Sharp.

Man's noisy cockerels land him in court

A MAN has been fined after his cockerels were crowing daily from 4am, disturbing neighbours.

Malcolm Hughes, from Nantymoel, was ordered to pay £1,210 by magistrates after pleading guilty to breaching an abatement notice.

He was first served with the noise abatement notice in May 2019 following a long-standing complaint from nearby residents.

But the complaints continued and when enforcement officers visited to undertake a noise survey in July, the cockerels crowed every few seconds between 4.40am and 5.10am.

A further visit by officers in October saw the cockerels crow 13 times between 6.15am and 6.20am – and a further 104 times between 6.45am and 7.20am, with each crow lasting a few seconds.

Mr Hughes (60), pleaded guilty on February 27 at Cardiff Magistrates Court to breaching the noise abatement notice and was fined £600 by magistrates, and ordered to pay £300 legal costs, £250 investigation costs and a £60 victim surcharge.

MP calls for a train station at St Athan

THE Vale of Glamorgan MP has met Transport Secretary Grant Shapps and his deputy Chris Heaton Harris to discuss the case for a train station in the village.

Mr Cairns said on Twitter: "The Government have made £500 million available to restore train lines and reopen stations throughout the country. St Athan is a clear choice for this investment."

He says local residents support the idea, and he is continuing his longstanding campaign with the Welsh Government and the borough and community councils to secure this investment.

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Rescue mission after cat gets stuck in three-inch gap

AN EXTREMELY frightened and cold cat has been freed from a three-inch narrow gap after becoming stick between a garage and a wall.

Staff from the RSPCA were alerted to the distressed cat, which was trapped in Conybeare Road in Penarth, at around 7.30am on Monday morning.

RSPCA inspector Sophie Daniels, who attended the incident along with firefighters, said: "This cat was certainly well and truly stuck and could only move his head.

"I could reach my hands to him, but there was no room to get him out at all. You could see he was extremely frightened and cold, and we had to act fast.

"The fire service were excellent and with the homeowner's permission, they removed bricks from the garage to release him."

She added: "They had to make quite a bit of noise right next to him, which did cause him distress as he was shaking. But once he was out, I immediately scooped him up and took him to the vets for treatment where he has been placed on a heated blanket. Hopefully, after some rest and TLC, he'll feel a lot better.

"We don't know how long he had been there, but there is a possibility he could have been there overnight.

"As well as the fire service, who were fantastic as usual, I'd also like to thank the homeowners for calling us, as well as letting the fire service knock through their garage wall to rescue this poor cat."

The RSPCA is appealing for information in a bid to track down the cat's owner, as it hasn't been microchipped.

Ms Daniels said: "We've put his details on Pets Located and have put a poster up in the locality. There are also posts on Facebook to try and find out where he belongs.

"Anybody with information related to this cat can contact us on 0300 123 8018. Hopefully he will be reunited with his owners, who are most probably worried about him if he hasn't come home, as soon as possible."

Sully Inn joins Knife & Fork Food

THE Sully Inn, formerly known as The Boat House, has reopened following a short re-brand, after negotiations with pub group Knife & Fork Food.

The new venue is the sixth location for the group, who have been working with the support of the building's owners. It joins other venues in the group's portfolio, which include The Pilot in Penarth and The Old Swan Inn in Llantwit Major.

The latest venue, situated on Cog Road in the coastal village of Sully, has been closed in recent weeks as the pub has undergone a change: its new look is a new dark navy façade featuring stylish brass lettering.

Dishes to expect on the new menu include prawn and spinach fritters, ox cheek chili con carne with chocolate oil, and smoked leek and sesame spelt risotto. Fans of the group's other venues will also be pleased to hear that their signature pub dishes, including the best-selling fish and chips, as well as lower price lunch options and a grill menu, will also be available.

Customers at The Sully Inn can expect a range of local ales from Grey Trees and Vale of Glamorgan Brewery, as well as a selection of craft beers, changing regularly to suit customer demand. The large dining space upstairs also offers great opportunities for customers to host private functions of their own.

Local councillors call for law change on private estate management charges

PLAID Cymru councillors want a change in the law over private estate management charges and are calling on Barry Waterfront residents to respond to a Welsh Government consultation to show just how widespread the problem is.

Plaid councillors Steffan Wiliam and Nic Hodges want Welsh Government to restrict the amounts that management companies can charge for looking after everyday services that are normally carried out by the council.

Many Waterfront residents pay estate management charges for services including parks, roads and waste collection – on top of their council tax.

Plaid Cymru councillor Steffan Wiliam said: "In recent years, there has been a big increase in the number of new estates where a developer sets up a management company or takes charge themselves of open spaces, such as parks, and essential facilities, such as roads, waste collection and highways.

"These have sometimes been called 'fleasehold' arrangements because residents have to pay these estate charges in addition to paying their council tax – and the council has no control over the services.

"This Welsh Government consultation is trying to find out how big a problem this is – how many people are affected, and how much they have to pay, so we are asking any residents in Barry affected by this to tell Welsh Government how it affects them."

Fellow Plaid Cymru councillor Cllr Nic Hodges added: "We know that this is a problem across Wales, and Welsh Government must act to change the law and stop this robbery. It makes no sense that residents have to pay for services twice.

"The Vale Council should also make its position clear, as the current system causes confusion about who is actually responsible for the upkeep of parks and waste collection in places where residents and visitors naturally think that it's the council, but it's actually a private management company."

The Welsh Government consultation on Estate Charges on Housing Developments is available on their Consultations page, ending on April 30. See *https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2020-02/estate-charges-on-housing-developments.pdf*

New roles in Parliament for Vale MP

VALE MP Alun Cairns has taken on new roles in Parliament looking into energy security, financial technology and post-Brexit trade.

Mr Cairns was recently elected the chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Energy Security, which is a cross party group with the support of Labour, Plaid Cymru and SNP representatives in its membership. At present they are looking into the challenges facing the energy sector.

In addition to this, Mr Cairns is co-chairman of the APPG for FinTech (Financial Technology) and vice-chairman of the APPG for Trans-Atlantic Trade. The FinTech group is particularly concerned with supporting the UK's expertise in financial products where technology can transform the services. Alun's background in finance services and compliance will help develop the agenda in a positive way. The Trans-Atlantic Trade group is focussed on post-Brexit exports across the pond. All of the groups operate on a cross-party basis.

Mr Cairns said: "I'm pleased to be involved in areas which will affect Welsh businesses in the years to come and where I believe there will be fantastic opportunities. We have an exciting FinTech sector, for example, and I believe Wales can play a leading role in this. Also, when looking towards post-Brexit trade, I've met with US representatives who are excited about products like Welsh lamb that can be exported. Through these cross-party groups I want to play a role in ensuring that we maximise the opportunities available to an independent Britain."

Shops to get cash help in challenging times

Cowbridge High Street

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council is offering small retail businesses financial support through the Non-Domestic High Street and Retail Rates Relief scheme.

More than £1.2 million was paid out across the county under the programme last year and that figure looks set to rise even further during 2020/21.

Under the initiative, businesses that sell goods from a premises direct to the public with a rateable value of less than £50,000 are entitled to a discount of up to £2,500 on their yearly business rates.

Such a discount will apply to the likes of pubs, cafes and shops, while those qualifying businesses with a rates bill of less than £2,500 will pay nothing at all.

Rate bills sent to businesses will have the relief automatically included, while any who believe they are entitled to a discount and not had it applied can contact the Council to ask for an amendment.

The Council administers the scheme, with funding from Welsh Government.

Cllr Lis Burnett, Vale Council Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education, said: "We are committed to supporting local businesses in the Vale and this is a very practical example of this assistance. Small retailers will receive a discount of up to £2,500 on their business rates, while some will pay nothing at all.

"Hopefully, this will provide a boost at what is a challenging time for traders of this type and help protect the collection of very special shopping areas we have in the Vale."

Spotlight thrown on Barry at London event

THE Barry Making Waves project presented the Barry Story to potential investors in London as part of the annual Wales Week London, a showcase of activities and events that celebrate and promote everything that is great about Wales.

Funding for the project has come from the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Great Place Scheme, the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Barry Town Council.

Barry residents know that Barry is a great place to live and the project wants to promote the use of culture and heritage as driving forces to help make Barry even greater.

With the aim of promoting investment a number of initiatives have been implemented. These include setting up a Barry Place Board, made up of local businesses, community representatives and third sector organisations. Chair Fay Blakeley said: "Barry is an exciting place to develop a business at the moment with so many new developments and new people moving into the town."

The Place Board have launched a Barry story book that explains how Barry's history has left a rich legacy which we enjoy today and offers a clear message for Barry's future – to capitalise on its unique assets of seaside and quayside, and to build on the spirit of innovation that David Davies and his partners brought to Barry at the end of the 19th century – and which is evident in Barry's more recent entrepreneurs.

Cllr Lis Burnett said: "Barry is developing rapidly and there are many development opportunities both in progress and on the near horizon. We need to ensure that new developments are true to Barry's character and follow these guiding principles."

Two burglaries in 2020 for church

By Ariane Hill
Reporter
ariane@glamorgan-gem co.uk

A VICAR said she is "upset" after burglars broke into her church for the second time in just over a month.

St John's Church in Aberkenfig was just one of a few businesses and facilities to experience a break-in on Monday night, March 9 – criminals forced their way into the Anglican church through the fire door.

Reverend Suzanne Brumwell, the vicar of the Parish of Llansantffraid, Bettws and Aberkenfig said: "The fire door was open; it's where they got in last time as well. It's the second time in five weeks. They didn't take anything, so they were looking for cash – we think that is what happened the first time as well."

Rev Brumwell, pictured right, said the culprits had broken into a storage cupboard in the back kitchen, which is used for items such as the printer and a home communion set. The raiders then forced their way into the hallway between the kitchen, the church and the vestry, damaging a bolted door in the process.

Rev Brumwell said: "The door is always bolted from inside the church and they'd managed to get through somehow, that was damaged as well. They drilled into the door to the vestry but they didn't get through. The only problem now is that we can't get in there either."

The burglars had also entered the main church in an attempt to gain access to the vestry through another side door, but they once again failed. The first incident on Monday, February 3 was similar in that nothing was taken and they had gained access through the back of the church.

The criminals also broke into other businesses in the village, including the Second Chance Charity Shop where they stole a charity box which was raising change for debt coaches.

Rev Brumwell said: "I'm upset we've targeted twice now. I'm more upset this time because they've targeted the charity shop and other businesses as well. It's sad that we live in a society where there are people who are clearly desperate for money for whatever reason, which leads to this happening. It leaves such heartache, and causes nuisance and trouble for other people as well.

"The Second Chance Charity Shop is associated with all the churches in the area and it helps to raise money for Christians Against Poverty.

"That shop helps to raise money for debt coaches in this area, not just Aberkenfig but the surrounding area as well, so to target somewhere which is trying to alleviate poverty is sickening."

Rev Brumwell added: "We've rectified our security problems and now we're looking to further improve the security here, including the introduction of CCTV cameras."

Parish administrator Christine Ellis was the person who discovered the break-in on Tuesday at around 10.45am when she went to collect a parish report for a meeting that evening.

A spokeswoman from South Wales Police confirmed they are investigating the burglaries.

She said: "Police in Aberkenfig are investigating a number of burglaries and attempted break-ins at premises in the village. Four businesses and a church have reported incidents at their in the last few days, with thieves having gained entry to all but one of the premises.

"As well as causing damage to the properties, items including cash and a power tool have been stolen.

"Enquiries are ongoing to identify suspects and officers are appealing to anyone who has any information which could assist the investigation to come forward.

"Increased and targeted patrols are ongoing in the area, and officers have also been visiting commercial premises to offer crime prevention advice and tips.

"Anyone with information – or anyone who witnesses anything suspicious in the area – is asked to contact 101, quoting occurrence 2000086746."

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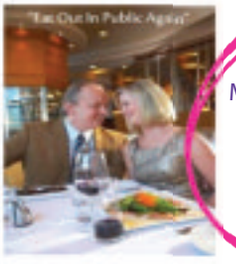

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Car spotted in middle of river

EMERGENCY services rushed to the River Taff in Cardiff after a car was spotted in the middle of the water last Friday.

A submerged and upturned vehicle was found in the river near Sofia Gardens just after 8.15am.

Firefighters, RNLI Penarth, Penarth Coastguard and Barry Coastguard were all drafted in to help.

It is believed the car, which was unoccupied, had been washed down the river.

A spokesman for RNLI Penarth said: "Lifeboats searched the area and provided cover for those investigating the vehicle in the water.

"It was later established that the vehicle was unoccupied and the lifeboats were stood down."

Council to hand out £70,000 to sports and activity groups

VALE of Glamorgan Council has allocated more than £70,000 in community chest grants to sport and physical activity projects across the county.

More than 8,000 participants are expected to benefit from the funding, which will help 55 different schemes.

Organisations were invited to apply for the money to contribute to the cost of coach and volunteer education, purchase of equipment, marketing, initial facility hire and coaching for new activities.

As a result, 275 people will receive coaching, first aid and safeguarding training.

Nine of the projects will help develop opportunities specifically for women and girls and include the Dinas Powys Athletic Football Club and the Wenvoe Wheelers.

Non-sport specific organisations were also successful in their applications, including The Intersensory Club and The Parkinson Welsh Football group. The funding awarded will help provide access to physical activities for adults with disabilities.

Cabinet Member for Leisure, Arts and Culture, Cllr Kathryn McCaffer said: "The money awarded will go toward supporting those delivering these services, and benefitting their communities. We all know that regular exercise is essential for our health and wellbeing, and so, we have a duty to make physical and sporting activities accessible for all.

"I'm pleased to see that much of the funding will go toward facilitating opportunities for those who face barriers when it comes to keeping fit, such as age, disability or gender."

The community chest scheme is funded by Sport Wales and managed locally by the Vale Council's Sports Development team. Applications for the community chest grant are still open.

If you are an organisation interested in developing physical and sporting opportunities, submit your application before March 19. If you would like to discuss a potential project, contact Karen Davies (Principal Health Living Officer) on 01446 704793 or kjdavies@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

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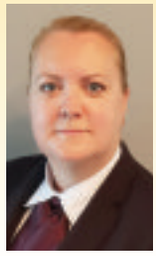

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Meet your Member of Parliament

MP Alun Cairns talks coronavirus in his monthly column for The Glamorgan Gem

AT present, there is no getting away from the threat that is posed by the Coronavirus.

This is, understandably, causing a great deal of concern for people, not only here in the Vale, but across the world. I recently spoke to a constituent who travelled back from an affected area of Italy and was concerned about the processes – which I have raised with the relevant authorities. It is a situation which is developing very quickly and we need to stay up to date with the latest advice from officials.

However, I would like to call for calm amidst the storm. While it is important to take precautions – including washing your hands regularly with soap and hot water – it is also crucial to remain calm. A line that I heard from a doctor discussing the topic was 'everyone should be invested, no one should panic'; and I felt this summed up quite well the need for everyone to change behaviour to protect themselves and others but, at the same time, not to panic.

I can reassure everyone that the NHS is well prepared to deal with incidents like this. The Government has a clear path to contain and delay the spread of the virus, as the Prime Minister, the Chief Medical Officer and the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor set out this week. On current advice, we remain in the 'containment' phase and the Government is preparing to advise anyone who shows even minor signs of respiratory tract infections or a fever to self-isolate in an effort to tackle the outbreak.

Anyone with concerns or questions should call NHS Direct and should not visit their local surgery if they feel that they have become infected. Regulations have been put in place to reduce the risk of further human-to-human transmission in this country, by keeping individuals in isolation where public health professionals believe there is a reasonable risk an individual may have the virus.

I am pleased that the UK is one of the first countries to have developed a world-leading test for the new coronavirus and the NHS is ready to respond appropriately to any cases that emerge. The Government has also made money available for the development of a vaccine to combat coronavirus. I sincerely hope that we can see the end of this outbreak as soon as possible.

Council to increase bulky goods charge

VALE Council is set to increase collection charges for bulky items from households, raising the figure to £20 for three items, up from the current £15.

Councillors on the Corporate Performance and Resources Committee were told that this still failed to cover even half of the cost of the collection of items. Officers told councillors that the overall cost to the council was between £40 and £45 for items to be collected.

Plaid Cymru councillor Ian Johnson said that he had recently reported a number of sofas and settees that had been dumped around Barry town centre, and questioned whether there was an increasing number of people fly-tipping to avoid charges.

Vale Council officers said that they would soon be publishing a report on fly-tipping across the county.

Cllr Johnson said: "It's always very disappointing to see items dumped on street corners or in back lanes when there is a Vale Council service available, or they can be taken over to the tip.

"In recent weeks, I've seen a number of settees and sofas abandoned on the street in the centre of town, and have reported this to the council to get them cleared.

"I hope that increasing the charges won't make this worse. The upcoming report on fly-tipping will hopefully show us how much of a problem this has become, how quickly the council can respond to fly-tipping reports and how many successful prosecutions are made."

School hosts International Women's Day event

OVER 50 pupils from Pencoedtre High School celebrated and recognised the importance of International Women's Day this year.

Leading the event was Belinda Loveluck-Edwards, campaigner, supported by panellists Abi Reader, a local dairy farmer; Charlotte Archibald, campaign lead for Welsh Women's Aid 'Time's Up' project and Fay Greenwood, co-founder of Awesome Wales, Barry's first zero waste store.

The panel discussed with the pupils their work, what inspired them to be in that particular field and what one piece of advice they would give to their 13-year-old self right now. This led to an interesting discussion on kindness, moving on from mistakes and speaking up against any form of injustice being a positive thing.

Charlotte Archibald explained that as a young girl she had spoken out about the injustice she faced and turned that anger into pushing for positive change.

Fay Greenwood was pleased to see that a number of pupils had visited her store and she told the group why she was passionate about reducing waste and ending the use of unnecessary plastic.

Abi Reader invited pupils to visit her farm and learn more about what it's like to own and run your own business in the Vale. The event included some group work on gender bias and how certain roles in fields such as engineering and IT are still male dominated, while caring and support roles are too often viewed as the best roles for women. The pupils also looked at the importance of language.

After the event, Belinda Loveluck-Edwards said she was impressed by the levels of understanding the year 9 pupils had and they had put forward some interesting points to remove bias in their community.

www. glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Neighbours win big

FIVE people in Barry were celebrating this week after winning £1,000 each thanks to their lucky postcode.

Neighbours in Amherst Crescent netted the windfall when CF62 5UQ was announced as a daily prize winner with the People's Postcode Lottery.

Judie McCourt, an ambassador for the lottery, sent her well-wished to the winners.

She said: "What great news to get along with your breakfast! Congratulations to our winners."

At least 32 per cent of ticket sales goes directly to charities and Postcode Lottery players have raised more than £500million for good causes in Britain and beyond.

For more information visit the Postcode Lottery's website and social media pages.

TV presenter to open Vale's Local Nature Partnership

TV presenter and naturalist Iolo Williams will be joining community and environmental organisations at St Donat's Castle on Thursday, March 26 for the launch of a Local Nature Partnership for the Vale of Glamorgan.

Hosted by the Vale of Glamorgan Council the partnership aims to protect and improve the Vale's natural environment and provide an opportunity for local organisations to champion the environment in their community.

Lis Burnett, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration said: "We can achieve so much more together than separately. We know that many local organisations are already actively involved in supporting and protecting the local environment. A local Nature partnership will allow us share knowledge, set priorities for action and develop joint plans for the Vale of Glamorgan."

The partnership launch at St Donat's aims to identify a diverse range of the Vale of Glamorgan's community to step forward and lead on this partnership. A critical role for it will be to champion the Vale's environment to government, to influence policy makers and unlock funding. Places at the event are in demand and so booking is essential. To reserve your place contact conference organiser Madeleine Sims msims@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

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- OUTSIDE CAFFE NERO, COWBRIDGE: Saturday 14th March 9am-5pm
- ONLINE: Google 'WELSH PETITION 1741'
- Or in many shops and pubs around Cowbridge

Celebrating World Book Day

HARRY Potter, Mary Poppins and Where's Wally all registered in Sycamore Class for World Book Day.

Class teacher Mrs Di Tomaso loved seeing all the children's fantastic costumes and celebrated the day reading and sharing their most favourite books.

New eye-care clinic is helping Vale patients get quicker treatment

A NEW NHS funded eye-care clinic, set up to relieve the pressure on GPs and the hospital eye department, has seen over 100 patients in their first month of trading.

Patients from across the Vale of Glamorgan with urgent eye problems such as infections, minor eye injuries and sudden changes of vision have been able to access the same-day assessment service run by local optometrist Tanya McNabb in Barry.

Tanya said "We have had fantastic support from other local healthcare providers, with patients being directed to us by GP receptionists, pharmacists, other high street optometrists and even the Minor Injuries Unit.

"We have all the necessary equipment to assess eye health problems, and if a further referral is found to be needed, we can arrange this directly with the Eye Casualty department at the Heath Hospital.

"Many conditions can be managed on-site, however, including ocular foreign body removal and inturned eyelash removal."

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- sudden onset double vision
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No referral needed just call direct on **01446 484114** to book, as the clinic is run on an appointment basis.

Same-day assessment is usually available, and appointments are free of charge to anyone with an urgent eye problem.

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Councillor gives history group a cash boost

Cllr Davies with Jeff James and members of the History Society committee.

RHOOSE councillor Andrew RT Davies has made his latest community fund contribution – with a £500 donation to Rhoose and District History Society.

Cllr Davies pledged to create the fund when he stood for election, to use his council salary to help good causes within the Rhoose ward. He met the society at Stewart Road Community Centre, and presented the cheque to chairman Jeff James.

The donation will go towards new display boards for the society's exhibitions.

Cllr Davies said: "Rhoose and District History Society do fantastic work documenting the history of the village and surrounding areas, and it was a pleasure to make a contribution from my community fund. The display boards will help the society run more exhibitions, sharing some fascinating information about the village's past.

"The society is a huge asset to the community and I would very much encourage more residents to get involved."

Correction to story in last week's paper

THE Glamorgan Gem ran an article in last week's paper about a mother and daughter who have been made homeless after a storm caused severe damage to their home in Barry.

The report stated that Craig, who took his life last year, was the son of Ceri Baker, whose home had been left uninhabitable by Storm Dennis.

In fact Craig, who tragically died on April 1, 2019, was the son of Karen Clemett.

Ms Baker was in a relationship with Craig's father, David.

The Glamorgan Gem would like to apologise for any distress this mistake has caused.

10x3

CYNGOR BRO GLAMORGAN
DEDDF LLYWODRAETH LEOL 1972 ADRAN 122 (2A)
TIR YN LÔN PENCOEDTRE Y BARRI

Rhoddir rhybudd trwy hyn fod Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn bwriadu tir priodol yn Pencoedtre Lane, Y Barri ag arwynebedd o oddeutu 1.25 hectar sef man agored dynodedig ar hyn o bryd at ddibenion tai. Pwrpas y dynodiad yw darparu datblygiad tai deiliadaeth gymysg.

Gellir archwilio cynllun sy'n nodi'r tir yn Swyddfeydd Dinesig y Cyngor, Holton Road, Y Barri yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

Rhaid cyflwyno gwrthwynebiadau i'r dynodiad a fwriadwyd yn ysgrifenedig, gan nodi'r seiliau dros wrthwynebiad o'r fath a'u cyfeirio at yr Is-adran Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol (Cyfeirnod JSH/C01-0661) yn y cyfeiriad uchod a rhaid eu derbyn erbyn 4.30pm fan bellaf ar 27 Mawrth 2020.

Dyddiedig 12 Mawrth 2020

Swyddog Monitro / Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Democrataidd

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 122 (2A)
LAND AT PENCOEDTRE LANE, BARRY

Notice is hereby given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council intends to appropriate land at Pencoedtre Lane, Barry having an area of approximately 1.25 hectares which is currently designated open space to housing purposes. The purpose of the appropriation is to deliver a mixed tenure housing development on the land.

A plan identifying the land may be examined at the Council's Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry during normal office hours.

Objections to the intended appropriation must be made in writing, stating the grounds for such objection and addressed to Legal Services Division (Reference JSH/C01-0661) at the aforementioned address and must be received no later than 4.30pm on 27 March 2020.

Dated: 12 March 2020

Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services

What's on?

Barry Library

A VISIT from author Rebecca Tope takes place in Barry Library on Thursday, March 19 at 7pm. Tickets are £3 and include a glass of wine; they can be purchased from Barry Library on 01446 422425.

Spring fair

MURCH Bowling Club hold a spring fair and coffee morning on Saturday, March 21 at Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys from 10am to 12.30pm. Stalls include crafts, jewellery, bric-a-brac, Name the Dragon,

Passengers stranded as Flybe collapses

By Sam Hall
Reporter
sam.hall@glamorgan-gem co.uk

PASSENGERS were left stranded as Europe's largest regional airline Flybe collapsed into administration last week.

Flights set to take off from Cardiff Airport in Rhoose were immediately grounded after the Exeter-based company went under just after 3am on March 5.

A steep fall in bookings because of the coronavirus outbreak has been partially blamed for the company's demise - along with ongoing money troubles.

Rhydian Bowen Phillips, a presenter and singer from Barry, said he was set to fly from Cardiff to Paris for a trip to Disneyland with his wife and young daughter.

"We were made aware not to go to the airport via Flybe social accounts," he told PA, claiming that he had "nothing at all" in terms of direct contact from the airline.

He revealed that the trip was the family's first since having a baby and it had been booked to celebrate his wife's birthday.

Bosses at Cardiff Airport have been working to find other operators to fill the gap left by Flybe's departure.

Scottish airline Loganair has stepped in to help by launching a daily flight from Cardiff to Edinburgh starting on March 23 with ambitions to increase the number of flights to 10 a week by September.

Thousands of people have been left without jobs since Flybe ceased operating, but Loganair have launched a special recruitment line for redundant workers who want to continue their aviation career with Loganair.

Former Flybe employees interested in joining Loganair should email their CV and a covering letter to flyberecruitment@loganair.co.uk.

Loganair Chief Executive Jonathan Hinkles said: "The collapse of a long-standing airline like Flybe marks a desperately sad day, especially for the airline's dedicated team of employees and for customers facing disruption to their journeys.

"By stepping in quickly with a comprehensive plan, Loganair is aiming to maintain essential air connectivity within the UK regions to keep customers flying, and to offer new employment to former Flybe staff members who are facing an uncertain future today."

Flybe escaped collapse earlier this year after last-ditch talks with the government secured a financial rescue package.

But since then, the company's future looked uncertain because of a disagreement over a £100m taxpayer loan - and a drop in bookings because of coronavirus has been blamed for delivering the final blow.

Rhoose councillor and South Wales Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, said: "This news is a huge blow for staff at Flybe and Cardiff Airport, and the Labour Welsh Government must pull out all the stops to support staff who woke up without a job.

"Flybe currently accounts for a large number of flights operating out of Rhoose and has received significant taxpayer support over recent years from the Labour Welsh Government, which will now have nothing to show for it."

He added: "This once again raises serious questions over the Labour Welsh Government's decision-making and investment strategy, and regrettably the long-term future of Cardiff Airport.

"The economy minister must now make an urgent statement and outline his plans to reverse the declining fortunes of the airport."

Deb Bowen Rees, CEO of Cardiff Airport, said: "We are deeply saddened by the announcement that Flybe has ceased operations, impacting its operations across the UK.

"Our thoughts are with our many friends and colleagues at Flybe as well as our customers who have had their travel plans disrupted.

"As one of the UK's largest regional airlines, Flybe is a well-known brand across south Wales and has made a hugely positive impact on Cardiff Airport and confidence in the airport over recent years."

She added: "We are actively talking to a number of airlines about the opportunity that exists in flying to and from south Wales.

"Given the Flybe news, we will focus on filling the core domestic routes which Flybe serve for the region."

Russell George AM, Shadow Minister for Transport, described the airline's collapse as "devastating news" for staff and customers.

He said: "I urge the Welsh Government to work fast to secure options to replace the routes with other operators and secure jobs for staff as well as supporting Cardiff Airport.

"As the flagship enterprise - a state-owned entity - of this Welsh Labour Government, the same government's reaction and policy now is more vital than ever."

A Flybe plane parked up at Birmingham Airport. (Photo credit Jacob King/PA Wire)

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More police officers to be armed with Tasers

HUNDREDS of Tasers will be given to police officers across south Wales after a major cash handout from central government, it has been revealed.

More than £273,000 has been given to South Wales Police by the Home Office so the force can buy an extra 331 Tasers.

Chief Constable Matt Jukes said: "Equipping officers to be able to protect themselves, their colleagues and, importantly, the public, is a priority.

This increase is not in response to a specific threat, but the nature of policing means officers frequently put themselves in harm's way.

"Additional availability of Taser is one part of our strategy to address the safety of officers and the public. Ensuring officers have appropriate protection is recognition of their vital role in standing between the public and harm, and their daily commitment to doing exactly that."

Police and Crime Commissioner Alun Michael, who has reviewed and endorsed the planned increase in the number of Taser-trained officers in South Wales, said: "As part of my role in holding the force to account, I have looked specifically and in depth at the way in which officers in South Wales use Tasers.

"We can be confident in South Wales that the use of Taser by our officers is proportionate and frequently prevents harm both to police officers and to the individual being restrained as well as to members of the public.

"In many cases, the presence of a Taser alone is enough to calm an offender or an individual who is in crisis, and in the vast majority of incidents the Taser is not discharged.

"Despite that evidence of benefit, the deployment of Taser is very carefully controlled, and enormous care is taken when training officers who will carry Taser to ensure that they fully understand their responsibilities.

"I take very seriously my role, which is to ensure that the use of Taser is carefully and responsibly overseen and that Tasers are only used to prevent harm to victims, the wider public, police officers and offenders themselves. That approach is fully understood and supported by the Chief Constable and his team."

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Major budget boost for Wales

IN yesterday's Budget announcement, Wales received a significant cash boost for spending to support key public services like health and education and to keep our economy growing.

The Budget statement handed Wales the biggest cash increase in over 10 years and a major pay increase for the lowest paid.

Local MP Alun Cairns said that key spending themes that will have a local impact are extra money to tackle Coronavirus and more cash for flood defences. A major increase in spending for roads and broadband will also support the economy, as well as a significant package to reduce business rates.

Mr Cairns said: "Many self-employed and local workers will be pleased at the package of support made available to them and their business through the uncertainty of Coronavirus. Clearly, the NHS obviously needs extra cash but we also need to keep people in jobs. Sick pay will be paid earlier and more people are being made eligible for the benefit.

Mr Cairns added: "This major increase in money for schools and hospitals should allow the Welsh Government to level up the spend per pupil in our schools and to protect the Sam Davies ward at Barry Hospital and our GP out of hours service.

"The business rate package will protect our High Streets and will play a key part in keeping our shops and local businesses open.

"The National Living Wage will be increased by more than 6%, when inflation is only 1.8%. This will be a real terms increase for the lowest paid. Added to the increase in National Insurance Allowance, it will make a real difference to the take home pay of local families.

"We promised that we'd get things done. This is a big step forward."

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Sign Language app launched across railway network

A NEW app to aid communication for deaf customers has been launched on the Transport for Wales network this week.

The app, called 'Interpreter Now' uses a video call style system to make communication between railway employees and deaf customers easier. Customers can download the free app and sign to an interpreter via the app through a video call, who will then relay the customer query to the member of TFW staff.

The interpreter will then be able to sign the answer back to the customer.

The app has already been a success on the Scot Rail network, but Transport for Wales are the first transport operator to introduce this type of technology in Wales.

Accessibility and Inclusion manager for Transport for Wales, Dr Robert Gravelle, said: "We are proud to be the first transport provider in Wales to provide such support for the Deaf BSL-using community. Each and every customer on our network matters and when technology exists to make their lives easier, the obvious thing to do is use that technology.

"I look forward to this new app helping us take a further step towards providing fully accessible journeys for all our customers."

This week saw the official launch of the app in partnership with the Cardiff Deaf Centre, with members invited to put it to the test on a short journey – and members gave it a big thumbs up.

Jonathan Bosman, who trialled the app at Cardiff Central added: "It's amazing not having to write things down which can be an arduous process. Going to the ticket office has always been quite a difficult thing to do in terms of communication, so this app makes that experience much easier. I'm looking forward to becoming more familiar with the app and using it in the future."

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Shop owner urges remaining flood victims to get in touch following community donations

By Ariane Hill
Reporter
ariane@glamorgan-gem co.uk

A SHOP owner has thanked her community for donating televisions for flood victims following the recent bad weather.

Storms Ciara, Dennis and Jorge battered the UK, and Wales was no exception as it experienced immense rainfall and strong winds.

The owner of new Cowbridge interior shop Enchanté and Trade Price Sofas (TPS) Suzanne Dickenson asked for donations and pledged to donate sofas to victims following Storm Dennis which saw hundreds of people left without homes and their belongings across south Wales, including in the Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Suzanne, from Llantrisant, said: "I would like to thank the people of cowbridge who donated TVs in my store, and I can assure you that you will be thanked again as many people are not ready to take the sofas we donated yet as we are storing them.

"If you know a family left without anything from the storm, please call me at the Llantrisant store where I will be happy to offer you any donated sofas and TVs.

"The feeling and happiness of receiving pictures of the children all snug and warm again on the sofa [pictured right] is amazing."

Proud mum Suzanne said her daughter Tiarni had also helped with the flood effort as she had gone knocking on doors to raise awareness of Enchanté and TPS's cause.

Along with her brother Thai and Suzanne, Tiarni spent her half-term knocking on doors in her area. The seven-year-old, who was excited to help, has also been praised by her school, Howells in Llandaff, for her efforts to help.

Unfortunately, Storm Jorge was not the end of the bad weather as yet more heavy rain and wind hit the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend on Sunday.

A yellow weather warning, the least severe, was in place from the Met Office for heavy rain – it is estimated that around a month's worth of rain fell in one night.

The M4 once again experienced multiple collisions on the stretch between junction 35 for Pencoed and junction 36 for Sarn as the road was inundated with excess water and spray.

There was once again road closures and delays due to flooding, such as on Felindre Road, going past Ruthin and St Mary's Golf Club, Coedcae Lane in Talbot Green and Llanharry Road which links Llanharry to neighbouring village Bryncae.

Flood victims receiving donated furniture. Left is Tiarni helping with the flood donations effort

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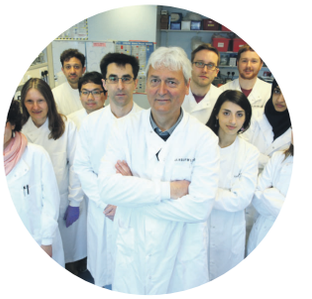

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Our Free Wills Month pays for simple Wills. If your Will is complex, you can pay the solicitor for extra advice. There is no obligation to include a gift to Tenovus Cancer Care. The campaign is intended for those aged 50 and over.

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Mother's Day

SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND 2020

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With plants to buy with pocket money, plants to purify the home, beautiful plants requiring little maintenance and namesake plants, there's a houseplant for every type of Mum at Root.

'Pocket Money Plant' - Ctenanthe Amagris

This 'pocket money' houseplant is only £3 making it the ideal plant for young children to buy for mum.

With its attractive silver-green, oval leaves and dramatic green herringbone pattern with purple underside, it is often called the 'Prayer Plant' because its leaves are erect at night and flat through the day.

The Peace Lily

The Peace Lily will not only brighten up mum's home – especially when its majestic leaves bloom in Spring – but it is also an impressive air-purifier and makes for a healthier home by giving us more oxygenated air and filtering out harmful toxins.

It's the perfect plant for beginners too, so if mum isn't green fingered or isn't used to having plants, it's a fantastic choice – there are two size options too!

Ficus Elastica Rubber Plant (£12)

Commonly known at the Rubber Plant, the Ficus Elastic is a popular, ornamental plant with big, dark green, shiny and leathery leaves that emerge from a bright red protective sheath.

Tough and low maintenance, they can grow to one foot tall where they will look great as a centrepiece on mum's table or over three feet tall where it will look fantastic standing proudly on the floor.

Mother of Thousands (£15)

The Saxifraga Stolinifera, or aptly named Mother of Thousands, is part of the Saxifragaceae family and is native to Asia. Although it looks similar to Begonia and Geranium, they are not related.

Saxifraga puts out stolons - creeping runners that take root to form new plants - which grow cute little plantlets. The leaves are kidney shaped and furry. A plant with personality that mum will love!

Calathea 'Crimson' (£21)

With stunning vivid pink markings through the centre, this eye-catching plant with its large, rounded leaves that mature to a deep red-purple around the edges, is sure to be a hit with mum on her special day and beyond. It has exotic foliage, wh takes a little mor … but the Calathea Crimson is so striking it makes it all worthwhile!

Lisa Needham, founder at online houseplant specialist Root said: "Houseplants are an eco-friendly and beautiful Mother's Day gift, they can last for years as well as purifying the air around you, making a fresher and healthier environment for everyone, not just mum!"

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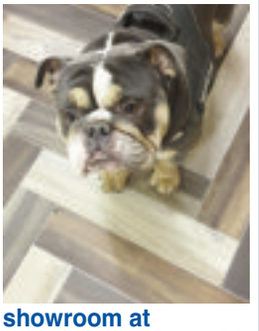

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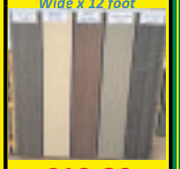
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"We still continue to offer our free measuring service and home selection as we have done for the past 11 years. We want your experience in buying a new floor to be pleasant and fuss free, so we do all the work for you.

"No work is sub contracted out and the certified, dedicated Twenty 12 Flooring fitting team happily uplift and remove old flooring, move your furniture, professionally install new flooring and put the furniture back – all you have to do is decide what floor you want!

For those of you who cannot get to them, call 0800 610 2012 or 07403 310 516 and Michelle will book you in for a home visit.

You can find Twenty 12 Flooring on Ty Verlon Estate.

It's the turning before McDonalds, look for the Twenty 12 Flooring signs pointing you in the right direction, follow the road up and around to the Masons buildings. Look out for the red railings on your right and turn into the free car park.

Michelle & Chris look forward to meeting you soon!

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How a strike-breaking ship came to grief on Barry Island

A MAN is looking for more information on a shipwreck that took place at Barry in the 1920s.

Paul Weatherill, who lives in St Lythans, was browsing through old family photographs when he found this image of a boat, split in two, at Barry Island.

Mr Weatherill told The Gem: "The photo belonged to my late father, who was a Merchant Navy sea captain.

"I recall my father telling me that the ship – a tramp cargo vessel – was wrecked on Barry Island around 1926.

"I believe it was called the *SS Valencia*, and was carrying coal from Spain as part of an effort to break the miners' strike.

"Eventually, the wreckage was towed away and scrapped.

"I wonder if any Gem readers can recall this dramatic scene on the beach."

If you can confirm or add to this story, please email The Gem on *editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk* or telephone 01446 774484.

Dog of the Week

GOLDEN oldie Penny is a gorgeous 15-year-old West Highland Terrier and is Dogs Trust Bridgend's oldest resident.

She's looking for her perfect retirement home with owners who are around for most of the day to keep her company. Despite being a more mature lady, she still enjoys a short walk followed by a snuggle in her bed.

Penny has limited eyesight so will suit a quiet home and could live with sensible children eight years and over who will give her some space when she needs it. Penny is a real sweetheart and is so deserving of her forever home in her twilight years.

For more information on Penny, visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG call 01656 338745 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Campaign launched to clamp down on drivers using phones

SOUTH Wales Police has launched a social media campaign to remind drivers of the danger of holding a mobile phone while driving, and to encourage them to report drivers who are using their phone at the wheel.

All four police forces across Wales will be focussing on some of the main reasons people use their phones while driving; texting, calling, using a sat nav, using social media, and listening to music. They will also be carrying out targeted operational activity providing an increased police presence in each force from March 16–29.

The aim of the campaign is to remind the public of the laws around holding a phone while driving and to encourage them to report dangerous drivers. Even when stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic, it is still breaking the law to use a hand-held mobile phone at the wheel.

Assistant Chief Constable Andy Valentine said: "Increasing numbers of drivers are choosing to use their phone while driving to call, text or even check social media.

"It's illegal to hold a mobile phone while driving. The message is very clear – it's not worth it."

If you suspect someone is driving while using their hand-held mobile phone, report it on 101, 999 in an emergency, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. If you have video or photographic evidence which has been obtained lawfully and safely, you can submit it directly to the police via the Go Safe website bit.ly/walesmobilephone.

Farming family stress importance of protecting home food market

Pictured (left to right) are FUW member Rhodri Davies, Alun Cairns MP, Gaynor Davies, FUW Senior Policy Officer Dr Hazel Wright, FUW Vice President Brian Bowen and FUW Glamorgan County Chairman Richard Walker at Rosedew Farm.

A FARMING family has shared concerns about the future of farming with MP Alun Cairns in light of the ongoing uncertainty on trade deals, food imports and the lack of frameworks in the UK.

Gaynor and Rhodri Davies moved from west Wales in 1995 to Rosedew Farm, Llantwit Major, and have set up a number of businesses to diversify and complement the farm. With their three children, they run a number of businesses on the farm.

There is a 295 strong herd consisting of many breeds including Aberdeen Angus, Hereford Cross, Saler and British Blue. The home bred beef is slaughtered at the local slaughterhouse Maddock and brought back to the farm to supply another business, The Farmers Pantry Butchers, with shops in Llantwit Major and Pugh's Garden Village in Radyr.

With his son Dafi-Sion, Rhodri grows a variety of crops on the farm including sugar beet, wheat, barley, maize, potatoes as well as hay/silage. Rhodri and Gaynor also own and manage Acorn Campsite and hire many local people to work here.

Talking to the MP about the Agriculture Bill and food imports, Rhodri said: "We are very concerned that the Bill does nothing to ensure food imported to the UK meets UK standards - despite ministerial assurances that imported food would meet our standards.

"We work very hard and to very strict rules and regulations. Some of the food that could land on our supermarket shelves will have been produced to standards that are illegal here.

"It makes these food items far cheaper but it doesn't protect our consumers and it also doesn't protect us as food producers, who are committed to keeping up standards. Our way of producing food in a safe and sustainable way must be protected."

Adding to their concerns of cheap food imports, is the lack of frameworks which would ensure a level playing field across the UK.

Gaynor said: "We need frameworks to keep the UK's 'home market' working properly and fairly. We will already have to compete with farmers in Europe, so it is essential that this Government prevents unfair competition between producers in different parts of the UK."

FUW Glamorgan County Chairman Richard Walkers added: "The Direct Payments to Farmers (Legislative Continuity) Order illustrates our fears: It removes the EU Pillar 1 financial ceilings mainly to allow Scotland to pay more money to farmers following Lord Bew's review of payments.

"If an additional windfall promised by the UK Government in August 2019 is paid through the BPS in 2020, the difference between average Scottish and Welsh farm payments will be around £16,200. Paying such an additional sum was not possible under the EU framework as it would have exceeded the Pillar 1 financial ceiling."

"We all know that 35% or more of Welsh lamb goes to Europe and that trade there is important, but 60% and more goes to England - therefore, we can't have anything that breaks the UK Home market as a policy in devolved arrangements."

Since 2016, following an internal consultation, the FUW has argued for frameworks to be agreed between UK Governments in order to prevent inappropriate differences between policies and funding in different parts of the UK.

"As an organisation established more than 60 years ago to advance and protect the interests of Welsh farmers, the FUW remains fully committed to devolution and the advantages it has brought to Wales and other nations over the past two decades.

"But such changes do not negate the need for all our nations to work together to develop approaches which are mutually beneficial and protect not only our farmers and internal markets, but also our status and reputation across Europe and the world," said Richard.

With beef production playing such an important role in the family business, the family are also concerned about the increase in bovine TB in Wales.

Rhodri said: "Bovine TB is something that worries us greatly. On top of everything else that is going on, we feel that not enough is being done to eradicate this disease here in Wales. Aside from the stress on us and the cattle with testing and more testing, there is also an economic risk attached to the current bovine TB status.

"We talk about trade deals with this country and that country but will they actually want to trade with us, given that they may very well view us as the dirty neighbour?"

The FUW has long argued that current levels of TB are a serious economic risk to successful trade negotiations and has urged the UK Government to undertake a formal risk assessment of the implications of current levels of Bovine TB across the whole of the United Kingdom, irrespective of devolved animal health responsibilities.

Speaking to Alun Cairns, FUW Senior Policy Officer Dr Hazel Wright said: "We strongly urge the UK Government to work with the devolved administrations to develop an eradication programme that provides assurances to other countries that TB vectors in both cattle and wildlife are being tackled in such a way that the UK will be TB free within an acceptable time period."

Out & About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON

Cowbridge Art Society to hold calendar competition

ON Thursday, March 12, Cowbridge Art Society will hold its annual calendar competition for members.

The following week, there will be a demonstration of oil painting techniques by Ray Burnell who specialises in west Wales seascapes.

The society meets in the Old Hall from 7pm - 9pm on Thursday evenings for ten sessions each term, mostly demonstrations. New members, painters, non painters and visitors are most welcome.

Details of this term's programme are available in the foyer of the Old Hall, Cowbridge and full membership information on our Facebook page, facebook.com/cowbridgeart.cas.

Public meeting on St Athan train station

ALUN Cairns MP is holding a public meeting to discuss a new train station at St Athan, giving members of the public the opportunity to learn more about his plans and ask any questions they may have.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12 from 6pm at The Gathering Place, Flemingston Road, St Athan CF62 4JH.

All constituents are welcome to attend. Please confirm your attendance by emailing Alun.Cairns.mp@parliament.uk or calling the office on 01446 748657.

St Donat's Cafe Concert – change of venue!

A COLLEGE and Community Cafe concert will be held at the West Church, St Illtyd's, Llantwit Major on Friday, March 13 from 3pm–4.30pm. Students from Atlantic College Peter Cronin and Peter Rosser from Llantwit Major, plus members of the Ukelastic Band will complete the programme.

Tickets £10 (to include refreshments) available on the door and from Nickleby's Bookshop in Llantwit Major. All proceeds to the St Donat's Tower Repair Fund.

Community cinema

***THE Good Liar* (15) is the upcoming movie at Dinas Powys Community Cinema, on Saturday 14 March.**

In the film, con artist Roy Courtney (Ian McKellen) can hardly believe his luck when he meets well-to-do widow Betty McLeish (Helen Mirren) online, but will the swindle go to plan?

The volunteer-run community cinema in Dinas Powys has now been operating for 7 years, showing films on the second Saturday of every month.

Doors open 6.30 pm for a 7 pm start. All tickets are £4.50. They are available on the door, or can be purchased in advance from the DPVC office at the rear of Murchfield Community Centre (weekday mornings) or online: https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/murchfieldcommunitycentre

Come see what crafts are all about

RHOOSE Adult Craft Group Open Day is on Saturday, March 14 from 1pm–4pm at Celtic Way Community Centre.

Free admission, craft demonstrations and crafts to buy.

Artists' talks at Art Central

ON Saturday, March 14, Art Central Friends have organised an event when artist Sally Moore will be in conversation with artist Professor Gerda Roper.

This will be an illustrated session and opportunities to meet the artists and discuss modes of working and contemporary practice. Coffee from 11am but the 'in conversation' talk will start promptly at 11.30am; all welcome.

Everyone is welcome at the Chatty Café

A FRIENDLY natter over a cup of tea takes place at Llantwit Major Library on Saturday, March 14 from 11.30am-12.30am; everyone is welcome.

Crafty fun at Messy Church in Bonvilston

MESSY Church will take place on March 15 in the Reading Room, Bonvilston (opposite Old Village Shop) at 2.30pm until 4pm.

A warm welcome is extended to youngsters (and toddlers, with their parents) for activities for all the family; crafty things to make, some singing, a Bible story and plenty of refreshments. We would be delighted if you could join us.

Further info from Rev Lee Dutfield on 07784 869020, Rev Canon Martyn Davies on 01446 760498 or Ann Roach on 01446 781309.

Valeways guided walks in the Vale of Glamorgan

ON Sunday, March 15 at 2pm, 'Wild Daffodils at Castle-upon-Alun' starts at St Brides Major Post Office, CF32 0SB.

On Wednesday, March 18 at 10.30am the Barry Coffee Shop Strollers meet at Bron y Mor car park, Cold Knap, Barry.

Also on March 18 at 2.30pm, the Cowbridge Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the Physic Garden fountain, Cowbridge.

On Thursday, March 19 at 11am, 'Woodlands and Coast' starts at Porthkerry Country Park cafe car park.

Also on March 19 at 2.30pm, the Penarth Coffee Shop Strollers meet at Penarth cliff top cafe car park.

Attend the Diabetes Group to hear about foot health

A TALK by Eve Waggett, specialist podiatrist, will be giving a talk on 'Stance Diabetes Foot Health Engagement and Empowerment to Self-Care' on Tuesday, March 17 in the Board Room, Llandough Hospital, Penarth from 7.30pm - 8.45pm – everyone welcome.

Vale Stroke support

THIS group welcomes stroke victims and their partners at its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 17 at 2pm in Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major when the topic will be Flower Arrangement, hosted by Sarah Colston.

The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month with different activities and speakers, ranging from crafts to live music, always tea and cakes, and occasional day trips. You will be most welcome.

PACT meetings in your area

COME along to Gibbonsdown 'Cuppa with a Copper' held every Monday at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close between 10am and 12 noon.

Buttrills surgery at the Barry Library, King Square on Tuesday, March 17 10am – 12pm.

Gibbonsdown PACT at 10.30am on Tuesday, March 17 at the Residents' Board Office, Coychurch Rise, Barry.

Meet your local officer at Llantwit Major Library on Tuesday, March 17 from 10.30am – 11.30am.

Cuppa with a Copper at The Sycamore Inn Colwinston at 11am on Tuesday, March 17.

Care and Repair in the Vale can help you

IF you are a homeowner or private tenant living in the Vale, perhaps disabled or elderly, Care and Repair Cardiff and Vale can help you adapt and maintain your home.

They give advice on grants available and information on reputable companies to use.

Care and Repair will hold an information session on Tuesday, March 17, 10am–12pm at Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. No appointment is needed; call 01446 732385 for further information. Home visits can be requested on 02920 473337.

Cowbridge U3A History Group

THE next Cowbridge U3A History Group meeting will be a talk entitled 'Poisoned', some tales and the science behind those who have been murdered by poisoning, by Ted Richards at 10am on Thursday, March 19 in Cowbridge Town Hall (main hall).

Visitors welcome; there is a small fee. See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

Big Screen in Cowbridge

THE next film at Big Screen is *The Good Liar* (Cert 15) on Thursday, March 19 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

This is the story of Ray Courtnay (Ian McKellen), a con artist who aims to fleece millionaire Betty McLeish (Helen Mirren) of her fortune.

However, all is not as it seems, and a cunning battle of wits ensues.

Tickets £4, available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door.

Pamper and Wellbeing evening

LLANTWIT Major Comp PTA are hosting a Pamper, Wellbeing and Fitness Evening on Friday, March 20 from 6.30pm–9.30pm.

Tickets (£5) include taster sessions in Sleep Therapy (limited spaces), Zumba and Tai Chi. There will be pamper providers, fitness and wellbeing specialists and gift stalls, bar, food, entertainment and a raffle. Tickets from Sunkissed, Llantwit Major, the Comp front desk or from PTA members.

Visit the 'Pamper, Wellbeing and Fitness Evening' event page on Facebook. All profits to support pupils.

MP's surgery

ALUN Cairns MP will hold an advice surgery from 9.30am to 11am for his constituents on Friday, March 20 at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. No appointment is needed; call 01446 732385 for further information.

Lunchtime recital

THE Cambrian Consort of Viols takes place on Saturday, March 21 at All Saints' Church, Barry at 1pm.

The members of the consort play Renaissance and Baroque instruments. In this recital of Dowland lute songs, Steve Metcalfe will play the lute and Father Paul Brophy the bass viol to accompany soprano Mared Furnham.

Concert goers are invited to bring their lunch to enjoy. Refreshments are also provided, and entry is free, although audiences are encouraged to contribute towards a retiring collection in aid of the All Saints Church Organ Restoration Fund.

Further information from James Bull on 07429598820 or email music@allsaintsbarry.org.uk.

Bridgend's Industrial Estate

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The company handles insurance work, and are also specialists in end of lease work.

Mirror Image really is a 'one stop' shop for any bodywork problem.

Call in and you can be assured of a warm welcome.

Take the strain off household chores with Lavish Laundries

LAVISH Laundries on the Bridgend Industrial Estate is very much a family business, as Angela James and her mum have been running it since last July.

The business offers the full range of laundry services, and there's a special offer at the moment, with the team ironing 30 items of laundry for just £25.50!

Whether it be workwear, sports kit or duvets, the team at Lavish Laundries can make your life easier by taking this time-consuming and frustrating household chore off your hands.

Lavish Laundries is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5.30pm, and on Saturdays from 8.30am to 12.30pm.

Cafe knows how to keep the customer satisfied!

EXPERIENCE counts for a great deal in life, and that is certainly the case on Bridgend Industrial Estate at Phil's News & Cafe.

The cafe has been there for 31 years now, and owner Phil Lewis has adapted to changing markets over that period by knowing just what his customers want.

It is a 52-seat cafe, and is fully licensed, catering for what customers want, when they want it.

Six years ago, he added a traditional fish and chip restaurant – 'The Tasty Plaice' – and that has helped keep the cafe as popular and as busy as ever.

The cafe includes a newsagents as well, making it easier for local people and local businesses to pick up just what they need. He stocks The GEM newspaper as well!

So, whether you want a newspaper, a coffee or tea, a light snack or a substantial meal, you will find it at Phil's News & Cafe.

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It pays to check out what your industrial estate can offer

MEMBERS of the public can sometimes get into a little bit of a rut, when it comes to buying the household goods that they need.

The natural first thought is the high street, or something with the word 'retail' in it – a retail park, perhaps.

Of course, those who know better are well aware that many of the best suppliers are not so visible – and are to be found on industrial estates.

It's all a question of image, of course, and on any industrial estate there will be a number of manufacturing outlets and distribution outlets that do not sell to the retail customer.

For instance, the Bridgend Industrial Estate describes itself as 'a large mixed use development comprising a number of large stand-alone industrial facilities, smaller estates, offices, development plots and a 'retail quarter'.'

'In total the estate extends to an estimated 3 million sq ft of commercial accommodation on approximately 300 acres.'

However, that only tells half the story, because so many of the businesses on the estate welcome retail customers, and more and more people are becoming aware of this.

It is worth remembering that one reason companies choose the Bridgend Industrial Estate is because of its location, close to the M4.

It means that it attracts retail customers from as far afield as Carmarthen in the west, and Newport in the

east – customers who value the quality and price offered by companies who have set up there.

It is slightly ironic to think that clued-in customers will travel from a distance to get a good deal on items that they need, while local people may be unaware of what is on offer.

That is why it is well worth taking a good look at your local industrial estate.

You may well find exactly what you need today there – and probably what you will need tomorrow too!

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NEWS FROM LOCAL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Barry Men's Forum

BARRY Men's Forum recently welcomed Roger James from Newport, who spoke on the life and times of Charles Stewart Rolls and Henry Royce, pioneers in the motor manufacturing and aviation industries.

At the Bournemouth Air Show in 1910, Rolls met his death at the age of 33 in a flying accident. His remains were brought back to Llangattock and interred in the village church graveyard. A statue of him is on display in the centre of Monmouth. Sir Henry Royce passed away in 1933 at the age of 70.

The business has had a mixed history, being in financial troubles and collapsing in the early 1970s, but was rescued by the German motor giants BMW in the early 1990s. Present day Rolls Royces are produced at Weybridge in Surrey, and aviation engines are still produced at Derby.

The Forum meet weekly at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Aberystwyth Crescent, Barry on Thursdays at 9.45am. Further information from Mac Tanner on 01446 743455; all welcome.

PDGG

Scrabble and choirs at Barry U3A

ONE of the Barry U3A's break out activities is the Scrabble group and organiser Sue is looking for more members.

If anyone out there likes a game of Scrabble, come join us at Barry U3A.

Sue also announced that one of the day trips this year would be to Aberglasney, which has beautiful gardens for anyone who has never been.

The speaker was Dean Powell, whose story this time was about Wales as the Land of Song and while he gave a nod to opera, pop and rock and roll, his main topic was the male voice choir. He was a member of the Treorchy Male Voice Choir himself and spoke with some authority on the subject.

Dean has a particular interest in Welsh history in the Valley communities of south Wales, especially during the Victorian period.

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 6 at 2pm in Bethel Baptist Church, Harbour Road and the topic will be the medieval boat found at Usk.

Barry U3A likes to welcome new members to take part in activities; anyone interested in joining should call Christine on 01446 701537 or just turn up on the day.

CD

Cowbridge Friendship Club

OUR February meeting was a celebration of St David's Day, with Welsh cakes, bara brith and daffodils.

We were entertained by the Old Spice singers with some lovely older songs, sung in close harmony: many thanks to them. We also welcomed some new volunteers to help run the club. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 26 at Llanblethian church hall at 2pm. Anyone interested in joining us should call Kay Edwards on 01446 773685.

Penarth ramblers walk from Holy Mountain to Wales' oldest pub

DESPITE a forecast for strong winds and snow showers on high ground, a group of keen walkers were lured out on St David's Day to join William from Penarth and District Ramblers for a 12-mile hike, taking in Ysgyryd Fawr and Bryn Arw in the easternmost part of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Leaving the National Trust car park on the south side of Ysgyryd Fawr, which is also known as the Holy Mountain and has a shattered north-western side due to a landslide from the last Ice Age, they meandered uphill through Caer Wood, then out onto the open hillside for the climb to the ridgeway.

A squally snow shower hit them but passed quickly on the strong wind as they tramped towards the trig point at 486m above sea level from where they were rewarded with clear surrounding views.

After zig-zagging down the steep face of the hill and pausing for morning break, a trek through waterlogged fields led them towards the imposing Tudor manor house of Llanvihangel Court with its medieval barn, and then uphill to Llanvihangel Crucorney, which contains the famous Skirrid Inn that dates to 1100, and is allegedly the oldest pub in Wales.

Descending and crossing the Afon Honddu via Pen-y-bont, a steady climb through fields led them to Great Llwygy Farm and, crossing part of the Black Mountains Cycle Centre mountain bike trail, they headed into Strawberry Wood.

After stopping for lunch, they moved on past Strawberry Cottage through a field and back across the Afon Honddu.

A quiet lane led them through Stanton Manor Farm for the gradual ascent of Bryn Arw where they were buffeted by a strong wind before making their way down from the ridgeway into Cwm Brynarw with its pretty stream.

Fields brought them back to the railway line and carefully across the fast A465 to Triley-uchaf for the long journey through more waterlogged fields below Ysgyryd Fawr, passing Dan-y-Skirrid and Pant-y-Skirrid farms and back to their start.

On March 14, an eight-mile moderate walk at Ewenny Priory and Castle-upon-Alun will leave Barry Dock Railway Station at 9.30am; call Jan/John on 01446 418514.

On March 17, a six-mile moderate walk in the Monnow Valley will leave Cogan Leisure Centre at 9.30am; call Alison on 07717 820 012.

On March 18, a 14-mile moderate walk in the Forest of Dean will leave Cogan at 9am; call William on 07528 701 952.

For up to date information log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or follow on Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward

MEMBERS of Bridgend Soroptimists International took part in a litter pick at the Parc Slip Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve, Bridgend, on March 7 to celebrate International Womens Day.

They braved the weather to complete a 5k walk around the reserve, which was followed by coffee and cakes at the Visitor Centre.

Soroptimists mark International Womens Day

Latest News from 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade

TEN members of the Juniors from 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade took part in the Boys' Brigade International Team Games competition, which involved playing six different team games.

Each game needed six boys and an independent judge recorded our scores. We will send the results off and hope to improve on our ranking from last year. Thank you to our judge and to the staff of Llantwit Major Leisure Centre, who made us feel very welcome.

For more information about Boys' Brigade in Llantwit Major please contact Debbie on 01446 796208.

St Nicholas WI

ON February 6, members of St Nicholas with Bonvilston WI met in the Reading Room in Bonvilston.

The guest speaker was Cara from the Polka Dot Tearooms at Llantrisant. Cara is an award winning cake decorator who decorated a chocolate ganache cake using icing to create a lovely rabbit. The cake was donated as a raffle prize, which was won by Vivienne Hayes, whose family said that it was the most delicious cake that they had ever tasted.

At the meeting on March 6, Harold Williams from the Beekeepers Association gave a very interesting talk on the life of bees. Harold has several hives at Fonmon Castle in Rhoose and following the talk, members were able to purchase honey collected from his hives.

Orders were taken for a fish 'n' chip supper for next month's meeting and plans were made for the summer outing to Burford and Stow on the Wold. Names were taken for afternoon tea at the Mansion House in Cardiff for August.

The raffle was won by Carole Saunders and the monthly competition 'An image of a Bee' was won by Rosemary Fisher.

The next meeting will be on April 2 at 7pm, which will be the AGM; new members welcome.

VH

Barry Soroptimists welcome new members

AT a recent meeting Barry Soroptimists welcomed new members Karla Flambert and Afonwy Howell-Pryce.

Karla farmed with her husband before going to Romania to work with disadvantaged children. Her nursing career was very much valued and when in France, she was a founder member of Cancer Support France. She now lives in Penarth with her husband and family.

Afonwy grew up in Oxfordshire and now is very happy living in Barry; she is a solicitor and became a Soroptimist to help other women achieve their dream and lead a happy life. She is passionate about fundraising and is preparing to trek Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for Cancer Research Wales.

The Soroptimists are an international group of women working to inspire and help other women local and worldwide. To find out more, visit www.sigbi.org/barryanddistrict.

Wenvoe Community Centre

ON Wednesday, March 18 at 7pm there is a Meet The Author event at Wenvoe Community Centre; come and listen to local author Sam Hurcom talks about his book *A Shadow on the Lens*, based in Dinas Powys.

Entry is free, but a donation to the library would be welcome.

The second event on Wednesday, April 15 at 7pm is Gardeners' Question Time; tickets from Wenvoe Community Library during opening hours or £2.50 on the night.

Join us for a good-humoured evening where the audience of amateur gardeners can put their horticultural questions to our panel of local experts. Chaired by Mike Tucker (writer of 'Village Gardener' section in the Wenvoe What's On) and his trusted panellists, Joyce Hoy and Gordon Jones.

The library contact details are: 02920 594176; wenvoelibrary@outlook and wwwfacebook.com/CommunityLibrary.

News from Treoes, Llangan and St Mary Hill

LLANGAN Primary School: on March 9 the Eco Owls began a school initiative to recycle fruit snacks at breakfast.

To fund this the children have created badges to sell at lunchtime.

Once again the Llangan school pupils are supporting the Velindre Easter Chicks appeal. Knitted Easter chicks will be on sale, priced £1 each with a Creme Egg inside. All money raised will be sent to Velindre hospital.

On World Book Day the children dressed up; they had a wonderful time reading interesting stories and receiving their book token. On March 12 the children will take part in a danceathon during lunchtime to raise money for Sport Relief. I am sure it will be a great success.

Birthday wishes: My thanks to all the members of the Young At Heart Club for their birthday wishes on March 6, and to The Gem for remembering my birthday – a big thank you to you all.

Saron Chapel, Treoes: The service which took place at Saron on March 8 was well attended, conducted by Rev Daphne Parker.

St Canna's Church, Llangan: The service which took place on March 8 was well attended by the local fraternity.

Art and Craft group

ON March 6, Llantwit Major Art and Craft Group group enjoyed a much anticipated visit from Carol Bartlett of Sew Lovely, High Street, Barry.

She demonstrated free motion stitching on a wonderful vintage Featherlight Singer machine. It was an interesting and inspiring evening, enjoyed by all. Carol will be taking part in the exhibition Pier 125 at the Penarth Pavilion from March 20 to April 26. Member Pat Johnson will also have some of her felt pictures on display. The exhibition celebrates the 125th anniversary of Penarth Pier and includes other artists' work. The group meets on the first and third Friday of each month at Llantonian Hall at 7.30pm and have a varied programme of speakers, demonstrations and practical evenings. The next meeting is a practical evening on March 20 at 7.30pm. Anyone interested is welcome to come along.

Claire's impressive Parkrun journey across Wales

A WOMAN from the Vale has become the first person in Wales to complete all 43 Parkruns across the country.

Claire Connelly, who lives in Rhoose, has spent her weekends travelling hundreds of miles all over Wales to take part in the 5k runs.

Mrs Connelly, club secretary of Vale Surf Life Saving Club, doesn't think there is anything special about what she has done, but loves how Parkrun makes it so easy for people to get involved in fitness.

She said: "Once you have completed your first one the format is the same all over the world. Just do not forget your barcode."

Parkrun, which holds more than 160,000 runs across the globe, uses barcodes so runners can check their times and keep track of their progress.

Talking about her favourite runs, Mrs Connelly said: "Newborough Forest has amazing views, Penrhyn starts inside a castle, Swansea Bay is flat and has great views and of course Barry Island for the view from the point."

The challenge hasn't stopped for Mrs Connelly as more Parkruns are being set up in Wales.

Claire Connelly, pictured above and left, became the first woman to run all 43 Parkruns in Wales.

Programme launched to connect, inspire and empower female writers

SHERMAN Theatre has launched an initiative designed to ensure that unheard voices in Welsh theatre become heard.

Each year, Unheard Voices will champion a different group they would like to be heard more on stage. In its first year, Sherman Theatre's Unheard Voices will connect, inspire and empower Welsh and Wales-based female writers through a year-long programme of masterclasses and networking opportunities.

Unheard Voices will enable participants to develop their skills, build their professional network and begin a long lasting relationship with Sherman Theatre. Twelve masterclasses will be delivered by key figures in theatre including: Suzanne Bell (New Writing Associate, Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), Emma Callander (CoArtistic Director, Theatre Uncut), Katherine Chandler (Playwright) Sharon Clark (Playwright, Dramaturg, Producer and Creative Director of Raucous), Jo Clifford (Playwright), Deirdre O'Halloran (Literary Manager, Bush Theatre), Charlotte Josephine (Actor and Writer), Lucy Morrison (Associate Director, Royal Court Theatre), Morgan Lloyd Malcolm (Playwright), and Nina Steiger (Senior Dramaturg, National Theatre).

At the end of the year, participants will be invited to attend a debrief session led by Sherman Theatre's Artistic Director Joe Murphy. Throughout the year, participants will also be invited to Sherman Theatre production press nights and to other networking opportunities. Participants will be encouraged to see Sherman Theatre as their home and as somewhere where they would have space to develop work. Unheard Voices is part of the Sherman Theatre's work to support artist development and to build a dynamic and resilient Welsh theatre sector. Sherman Theatre's Artistic Director Joe Murphy said: "Unheard Voices is just the first step in cementing Sherman Theatre's place in our community as a home for all Welsh and Wales-based artists."

The programme is open to Welsh and Wales-based writers with any level of experience. Writers need not have extensive experience of writing for the stage. A panel of experts has been assembled to consider submissions from those who would like to take part in Unheard Voices. Places will be offered based on potential and submissions will be accepted in both Welsh and English. The panel includes playwright and Sherman Theatre associate artist Katherine Chandler, writer and theatre maker Branwen Davies, director Sara Lloyd, actor and Sherman Theatre associate artist Suzanne Packer and BBC Writersroom development producer Helen Perry.

Details on how to apply can be found online at shermantheatre.co.uk/unheardvoices. Deadline for submissions is April 15 at 12pm.

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RSPCA welcomes dog breeding review

RECOMMENDATIONS to the Welsh Government by the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group on Wales' dog breeding laws have been made recently.

Claire Lawson of RSPCA said: "While the introduction of new dog breeding laws in 2014 marked a big step forward for canine welfare, RSPCA Cymru has long highlighted the need for future improvements to protect stud dogs, breeding bitches and puppies across the country which is why this urgent review was so important. RSPCA Cymru was pleased to contribute to this review, via our role on the Animal Welfare Network for Wales. The current staff-to-dog ratio has always been too high for staff to meet the needs of the number of dogs this regulation allows them to keep. Puppies need care, attention and socialisation, so a new ratio would be a step forward. We know councils need proper resourcing to enforce dog breeding laws. Any enhancement of dog breeding law must be done with improvements to complementary legislation including dog traceability, compulsory microchipping compliance, a ban on third-party sales of puppies and consideration of a new cat breeding law too. Only then can we have a system that is truly fit for purpose and protects animals from bad breeding practices. The Welsh Government have shown a strong response to this report and we look forward to ensuring local authorities are equipped to tackle illegal poor dog breeding, the welfare consequences of such practices; and that regulations are enhanced to ensure Wales loses its sad label as a bastion for the murky world of illegal, or damaging, puppy breeding practices."

Just a minute: spare 60 seconds to help save lives

A MERE minute could be all it takes to gain vital knowledge that will help Counter Terrorism Police keep everyone safe.

From March 6, a short film is being shown in cinemas across the country highlighting possible signs of terrorist activity and explaining what the public can do to help officers. The 60-second advert, which has already won a number of industry awards, will be shown in cinemas before many of the upcoming top-rated movies and is also available online.

Called 'Look Again', the powerful production shows what sort of behaviour could indicate someone is planning a terrorist attack. It explains how members of the public can ACT to report their concerns online at gov.uk/ACT. Crucially, it stresses not to worry you might be wasting police time.

Detective Superintendent Noel Harris from the Wales Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit (WECTU) said: "One of the key messages of the film is that life has no rewind button. If you report concerns and they turn out to be nothing that's completely fine – but you can't turn the clock back. It's much better to contact us and let our specially-trained officers make an assessment. As the film says, reporting won't ruin lives, but it could save them."

Look Again is in selected cinemas in Cardiff from March 6 to April 26 and online.

Anyone with concerns about possible terrorist activity can contact police in confidence at gov.uk/ACT. In an emergency, always call 999.

Tea time for guide dog Tetley

GUIDE Dogs Cymru has come up with a tasty way to mark National Tea Day on April 21.

The charity wants people to enjoy a piece of cake and a cuppa with friends at their very own Guide Dogs tea party. This could take place at home, at work, in a community group or at school. There are no set rules – just choose any day to suit you.

Sign up to receive a free fundraising kit to inspire you. Inside you'll find posters and invitations to help you spread the word. Get your paws on free bunting, cake flags and edible puppy cake toppers. There's even a puppy sweepstake to help boost your tea totals.

Every pound you raise will help Guide Dogs to provide its life-changing services. Just £25 could buy a white harness, the symbol of a fully qualified guide dog like the aptly-named Tetley, a Labrador working in Bridgend.

Tetley's owner, Tanya Mackenzie-Shearan, said: "Having a guide dog means I can live an independent life. I feel more confident, and my family no longer have to worry that I will walk into something and hurt myself."

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For more information or to arrange a viewing, please contact the sales team on 01446 700222
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RICS

Train company steps in to help ex Flybe staff

THOUSANDS of staff affected by the collapse of the aviation operator Flybe are being urged to look at employment vacancies with Transport for Wales, who have announced that they have a number of jobs coming up including onboard customer hosts and chefs.

The Minister for Economy and Transport, Ken Skates, said: "My thoughts go out to the thousands of hardworking Flybe employees who have been left devastated by the news. I am working closely with all my fellow Assembly Members and stakeholder partners to ensure we're doing all that we can to support everyone affected; to minimise the social and economic impacts for those most affected.

"I am pleased that Transport for Wales has shared opportunities to join the TfW family across their communication platforms, to show that the staff at Flybe and their specialist skills are very much in demand across Wales."

Marie Daly of Transport for Wales Rail Services said: "We recognise that there are some highly skilled, customer focused people who will no longer have jobs, and we strongly encourage anyone affected and looking for a new opportunity to get in touch with us, to find out what roles will be coming up in the future.

"We have ambitious plans to transform the transport network for the people of Wales and the borders and want the best people possible to join us on that journey." As well as providing potential employment, Transport for Wales have already announced that they are showing support to Flybe passengers and staff by providing free travel on their services for one week, which remains valid until March 12.

Affected Flybe passengers are advised to show their Flybe booking confirmation or boarding pass to a Transport for Wales booking operator when they book their train ticket. Anyone looking for career opportunities with Transport for Wales or Transport for Wales Rail Services is encouraged to send their CV to flybe@tfw.wales and include a description of the roles they are interested in.

Full steam ahead for project to re-open railway

A GROUP of local enthusiasts are looking to open a steam railway in Bridgend or Neath Port Talbot and are looking for potential volunteers who might be interested in getting involved.

The South Wales Narrow Gauge and Miniature Railway group are in negotiations with a local council in regard to opening the railway, and need to assemble a core team to build, maintain and operate the line.

If you are interested, contact The South Wales Narrow Gauge and Miniature Railway Group at swngmr@outlook.com.

www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

AM demands more proactive approach to tackle flood risks

SOUTH Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies has called on the Labour-Vale Independent run Vale of Glamorgan Council to take a more proactive approach to combating flood risks across the county.

Several areas were affected in recent storms, with the Sportsman's Rest pub in Peterston-super-Ely flooding three times in recent months. As residents faced the impacts of Storm Jorge, the Vale of Glamorgan's Court Road depot ran out of sandbags, with people being turned away. Mr Davies called for greater preparedness from the council, emphasising that impacts were foreseeable, with previous storms causing extensive damage in neighbouring RCT.

He also pressed the need for improved flood defences, with reports of more flooding in Llantwit Major and Llanmaes emerging.

Mr Davies said: "Our emergency services have done an incredible job during the recent floods, putting themselves in danger to protect us. But in the Vale, we have been let down by a Labour-Vale Independent Council that has not got on top of the problem. When Court Road ran out of sandbags, this was unforgivable. We all knew the storm was coming, so the council should have made sure they were stocked up.

"It's quite clear improved defences are required, with the Sportsman's Rest in Peterston flooding several times in a matter of months. More must be done to protect people who have had to suffer the devastation that flooding causes, time after time."

Sculpture commissioned for Llantwit

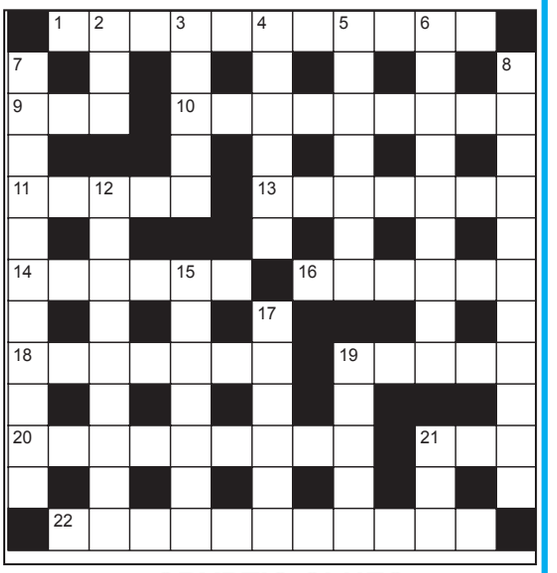
OVER the last 18 months, various groups have been working together to create a sculpture to represent the community of Llantwit Major.

Original discussions were undertaken by Llantwit Major Town Council and the town study steering group (comprising town councillors and local organisations and businesses).

Gwyneth Price, a local artist, designed the sculpture depicting her vision of Llantwit Major. She wanted it to be made from brushed steel. Requests were sent to businesses asking if they would assist with sponsoring the sculpture and we were delighted to have the offer of assistance and financial support from two organisations.

Andrew Tipping from AP Engineering Ltd donated his time and equipment free of charge to plan and cut out the brushed steel sculpture. Alun Griffiths Ltd agreed to pay for all materials and to install the sculpture, a complex process, and it was installed by the new roundabout at the end of the northern access road along the B4265.

THE GEM CROSSWORD



CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

1. Presenting things in a playful way? (11)
9. Suitable for the leading characters of any provincial theatre (3)
10. A complete course for drivers (4,5)
11. After disgraceful act it remains silent (5)
13. One may be spellbound by the look of this (4,3)
14. Lacking sound quality - a pick-me-up needed (6)
16. Graphically describe some of the seaside picture-houses (6)
18. It can be proved that Tom here is upset (7)
19. Food from a street in Pennsylvania (5)
20. Security force but not in the van! (9)
21. One mate - father has fifty (3)
22. Lacking distinction - see fast rule broken (11)

Down

2. The deserter returns as a sailor (3)
3 & 15Dn. There's no power left, if this saying is true! (5,2,5)
4. Bank official is one who supplies the account (6)
5. Cross when the realist is disturbed (7)
6. One could make veiled references to these establishments (9)
7. Former painters are seasoned experts (4,7)
8. Sea silently disturbed in a fundamental way (11)
12. Work together as surgeons? (2-7)
15. See 3 Down
17. I'm getting the couple to weaken (6)
19. Foot control is partly stopped altogether (5)
21. The unpleasant matter of the cat without a tail (3)

SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Dramatising; 9 Apt; 10 Golf links; 11 Tacit; 13 Evil eye; 14 Atonic; 16 Depict; 18 Theorem; 19 Pasta; 20 Rearguard; 21 Pal; 22 Featureless.

Down: 2 Rat; 3 Might; 4 Teller; 5 Saltire; 6 Nunneries; 7 Past masters; 8 Essentially; 12 Co-operate; 15 Is right; 17 Impair; 19 Pedal; 21 Pus.

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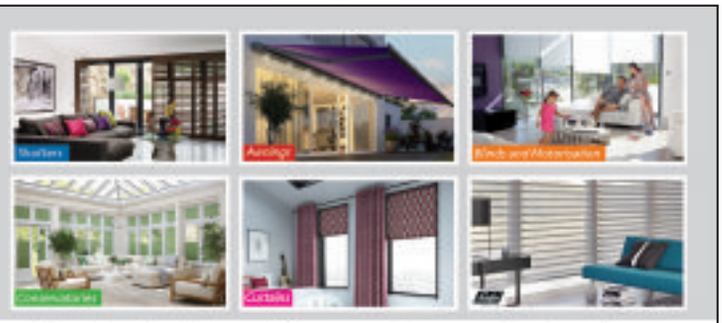

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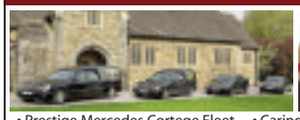

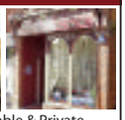

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Family Notices

CLEMENTS
Lyndon

Passed away on Sunday, 1st March at home after a short illness, Lyndon, aged 72 years, will be sadly missed by his wife Susan, four children, Lyndon Stephanie Lee and Paul and his seven grandchildren and great-grandchild.

Lyndon enjoyed life to the full.

His funeral will be held on Monday, 16th March at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2pm.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, telephone 01446 407962.

WILLIAMS
Dr David M J

Sadly Dr David Williams passed peacefully on 5th March 2020 at Llandough Hospital, aged 85 years. Husband to Dr Valerie Williams, father of Jonathan and Anna, father-in-law to Jayne and grandfather to Alex, Jenny, Chris and Evan.

Greatly missed by the whole family.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at 10am on Tuesday, 17th March at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to RNIB or St John Ambulance (Wales)

LOYNS
Hannah Morgan

Peacefully, at home, on 27th February, Hannah of Cowbridge. Cherished daughter of Kimberley and Andrew, beloved sister of Luke and Charlotte, much loved granddaughter of Patricia and Jean and the late Leslie and Brian.

Will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Friday, 20th March at 1pm, followed by private interment.

Donations if so desired for The Brain Tumour Charity and/or CANCERactive c/o W.H. Preene & Son, Mwyndy, Pontyclun, CF72 8PN. Tel: 01443 223368.

SALVIDGE
Cyril

Peacefully on 4th March 2020 at Sam Davis Ward, Barry Hospital, Cyril in his 92nd year, passed away. Beloved husband and father; he will be greatly missed by all his family.

Cyril will be greatly missed by his wife of 70 years, Ellen and his daughters.

Resting at J. Pidgeon & Son, 539 Cowbridge Road East, Victoria Park, Cardiff (02920 226604) until the service on Wednesday, 18th March at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 2pm.

Close family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of Cyril's memory may be made which will be collected and passed onto the Sam Davis Ward, Barry Hospital.

WHYTE
David (Chalky)

Sadly on 4th March 2020 at Llandough Hospital, David, aged 87 years. Beloved husband of the late Shirley, much loved dad of Ruth, Heather, Sammy, Robert and Becky, loved bampi to all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

David will be greatly missed by his step-children family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Wednesday, 25th March at 10.45am, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Faamily flowers only. Donations in lieu, if so desired, for Ward East 8 Llandough Hospital c/o the funeral director.

LONG
Hilda

Hilda Long died peacefully at home on Wednesday, 4th March 2020, aged 94 years. Devoted and dearly beloved wife of the late John, much loved mother to Tacy, Michael, Frances and Ruth, mother-in-law, grandma, great-grandma and friend to many.

Service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend, CF35 6AB at 11am on Thursday, 19th March 2020.

Family flowers only please. Donations in memory can be made to BRACE Alzheimer's Research, South West & South Wales, or the RNLI via W. H. Preene & Son, Funeral Services, Mwyndy, Pontyclun, CF72 8PN. Tel:01443 223368

MITCHELL
Dilys

Dilys passed away at the Princess of Wales Hospital on 24th February 2020, aged 76 years. Loving mother and grandmother.

Dilys will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service on Friday, 20th March 2020 in Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent direct to Y Bwthyn, c/o Princess of Wales Hospital, Coity Road, Bridgend, CF31 1RQ.

All further enquires to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend, CF31 3AP. Tel:- 01656 653156.

BUBBINS
Albert 'Sam'

Peacefully on 2nd March at Collegefields Nursing Home, Barry, Sam aged 97 years, beloved husband to the late Olive, much loved dad of Sheila, Bob, Julie, Chris and their partners. Cherished gramps and gaga to all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sam will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Thursday, 19th March a 2pm.

Family floral tributes only, donations if desired may be made at the service to support Ty Hafan, Children's Hospice for Wales in memory of Sam.

Further enquiries please telephone 01446 407962.

Family request something colourful may be worn.

The family wish to thank all staff at College Fields Nursing Home for the continuous care, support and kindness shown to Sam and his family.

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Family Notices

WILLIAMS
Gareth (Gary)

Passed away peacefully on 3rd March 2020. Much-loved by sister Dawne and a devoted father to Nathan, William and Georgina. A celebration of Gareth's life will take place on Friday, 20th March 2020 at Cardiff Natural Burial Meadow, Coedarhydyglyn Park, St Nicholas, Cardiff, CF5 6SF at 1.30pm.

Please wear suitable footwear. No flowers please but donations would be welcomed for Myeloma UK online at www.garethwilliams.muchloved.com or via the Funeral Director.

All enquires to Parkman Funeral Home, 19 Camms Corner, Dinas Powys. CF64 4QY, 02922 362101.

DONOVAN
Paul

In loving memory of Paul Donovan, who sadly passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at home, aged 74 years on the 27th February 2020. Beloved husband of the late Marian, who he has dearly missed. Loved father of Leah and Aled. Adored Cu of Nia and Harry. A retired teacher who gave so much.

Paul will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Friday, 20th March at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2pm.

Family flowers

Only donations in lieu, if so desired, for the NSPCC c/o the funeral director.

KING
Muriel Marshall

Peacefully on Saturday, 29th February, Muriel passed away at Llandough Hospital, aged 90 years. Cherished and beloved wife of the late Alan, dearly loved mother of Paul and the late Jonathan, loving mother-in-law of Ruth and Gillian. Adored Grandma of Simon, Rachel and husband Robert. New great-grandma of Lucia.

The Thanksgiving Service will take place on Thursday, 19th March at St David's Methodist Church, Barry at 12 noon, followed by cremation 1pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu to Guide Dogs and the British Heart Foundation through W. James & Sons, Funeral Directors, Chapel of Rest, Fonmon, Barry, CF62 3BJ.

LONG
Susan (*née* Woods)

After a very short illness at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on Tuesday, 3rd March with all her loving family around her. Much loved sister of Gary, Anthony, Sheelagh, Jayne, Stephen, Paul, Sean, Christina and Jason.

Susan will be deeply missed by her brothers and sisters in law and all her nephews and nieces.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, 23rd March 2020, service and cremation 12 noon at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Macmillan Cancer Support c/o the funeral director.

Acknowledgements

GRAY
David Barry

Sheila, Mike and family wish to thank everyone for their sincere messages of condolence and attendance at Dave's funeral on Friday. Honoured to have had the participation of personnel from MOD St Athan.

Special thanks to Canon Edwin Counsell and A.G. Adams Funeralcare for their dedication and professionalism.

Advertisers please note: to appear in the following week's edition, Telephone 01446 774484. email: sales@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Anniversary

Congratulations
Glenys & Bob Cosslett
on your
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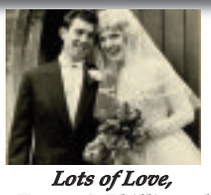

Lots of Love,
Tracey & Phillip and
David & Danni
xxx

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Athletic come out on top in cup derby game

BRIDGEND Athletic progressed to the final of the Mid Glamorgan District Cup with a 36-12 victory over Maesteg Celtic at Maesteg RFC on March 5.

They will play the winners of the other semi final between Aberavon Quins and Pencoed. It was the first meeting of the sides in a very long time as the Athletic played last season in Division One East Central, while Maesteg Celtic spent a single season in Division One West Central. The Celtic are strong contenders for promotion back to that division this season.

It was a prominent night for two Athletic players who went to play for Maesteg from the double-winning Welsh Youth League and Cup Athletic side of season 2008-2009. Athletic captain and also captain of that youth side, Ben Howe, scored two tries in a man of the match display, while hooker Lee Murphy was making his 100th senior Athletic appearance.

Celtic had an early penalty opportunity which sailed just wide of the upright. A similar Athletic attempt by outside half Robin Davies suffered the same fate.

A moment later a second-long range effort by Davies bounced quickly off the crossbar, where Ben Howe following up just failed to gather cleanly right under the posts.

A third Athletic penalty was kicked for a five-metre driving maul line out. The initial surge was held up but a series of thrusts from locks Ben Cording and Jonathan Stoker finally saw flanker Sean Williams force his way over close to the posts. Davies converted.

The rest of the half was mainly uneventful. Celtic were committing more players and effort at rucks and were rewarded with a raft of penalties against a lack-lustre Athletic, who had not played a full 80 minutes in nearly seven weeks.

The half time break seemed to rejuvenate the Athletic as they went straight on the offensive. The front row of Wayne Fooks, Lee Murphy and Matthew Greenman were exerting pressure on their Celtic counterparts.

Celtic were caught offside during an Athletic back move and Davies increased the lead to 10-0. The Athletic were now playing with confidence and when scrum half Aled Thomas fed flanker Ben Howe, he sold a dummy and raced 25 metres to cross under the posts. Davies converted.

From the restart, the Athletic centres Owain Leyshon and Tom Jenkins fed full back Geraint Roberts to put wing Sam Richards clear to sprint 30 metres and cross in the corner to give the Athletic a 22-0 lead in the 52nd minute.

Celtic came back into the game but it wasn't until the 68th minute that the game came back to life, with four tries in the final 12 minutes. Celtic, with two quick tries from forward drives, reduced the deficit to 22-12.

This stirred the Athletic and No 8 Ben Davies finished a handling move to cross. Then with the final play, a training ground move involving No 8 Ben Davies and flanker Ben Howe saw Howe cross for his second try. Davies converted both tries for a match haul of 11 points.

There is now a three-way tie between Ben Howe, Lee Murphy and Sam Richards as leading Ath try scorer for the season with six tries apiece. It was good to see wing Tom James play 60 minutes returning from a three-month hamstring injury.

It is hoped prop Matthew Norman will also be back for the next league game on March 28 at home to Waunarlwydd.

Adrian Burt

Email your stories, photos, letters and sports reports to editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

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Tony Yates takes the Honda HR-V 1.5 i-VTEC on the road

THE HR-V offers an unmatched combination of attributes, which includes dynamic styling that is combined perfectly with class-leading interior space and versatility, including the renowned Honda Magic Seat System.

This compact SUV is also capable of returning an impressive MPG and even more dynamic emission figures, meaning you will end up being very surprised just how far a single tank will take you.

If it's a family vehicle you are after, then don't just take my word for it, my children also loved it. They said it was quite cool being in the back and to my relief, they were far enough apart from each other to make the family drive out even more of a pleasure.

The HR-V has the lines of a coupe and the robustness of an SUV.

Power and Efficiency: The 1.5 litre i-VTEC (130PS) has 155Nm of torque and is a fantastic little engine that is so far this year one of the better ones I have tested. I am also happy to report that the engine feels very refined and has bags of torque available when you need it most; which makes motorway driving easy, quiet and unfussy. The HR-V will also return a combined 52.3MPG if driven with a steady right foot – and the emissions came in at a very respectable 125 g/km. Top speed will also stop at around 116mph and 0-62 will come in at around 11.4 seconds.

My test car was fitted with an array of fuel-saving features which helps you get more miles for your money. Even when worked hard, the 1.5 Litre VTEC does its best to please you in many different ways. It's not blistering fast, and it won't make you feel like you can take anything on at the lights, but it is very refined, and I'm happy to give this engine four stars thanks to its willingness to do its very best.

On the road: The HR-V does not feel heavy or cumbersome at all and you can sense that Honda has put a lot of effort into setting up the suspension and chassis. The HR-V will also keep you and your passengers firmly in their seats, thanks to a suspension setup that won't have you bouncing all over the place like a rubber ball. I also liked how it cornered, and how it just glided across all the lumps and bumps in the road ahead, even when the road is full of potholes (like my road). Also, it's an SUV, so it's meant to deal with things like floodwater and torrential rain with relative ease, along with the odd muddy field or short uneven track.

Interior and Technology: The interior is of a good standard and its controls are well set out and all the dials are clear to read. The space inside is also better than most – and if needed, you could easily fit in a large family. Plus everything inside the HR-V feels very well put together. Passenger legroom is fine, as is the boot space – (470 litres) seats up and seats folded flat capacity of (1533 litres).

On the inside: Standard equipment from SE trim upwards includes features such as; curtain airbags front and rear, ABS, Brake Assist, City-Brake active system, emergency stop signal, hill start assist, traction control,vehicle stability assist with agile handling assist, ISOfix points, forward collision warning, intelligent speed limiter, lane departure warning, highbeam support and traffic sign recognition system. This is just a small amount of what you can find. My test vehicle was also fitted out in EX trim, so this included heated front and rear seats, smart key entry and start, leather interior, rear privacy glass, LED headlights, rear view camera, and a fantastic Honda Connect Infotainment System with Garmin 7" touchscreen navigation.

In summary: A great buy; if you are searching for one of the best looking compact SUVs currently on the market with the addition of some top specification and enough space to keep any family happy, then the HR-V could be the perfect fit.

Price: £27,500 OTR, not including fitted options.

Budget boost as S4C gets £15m VAT refund

WELSH language broadcaster S4C is expected to benefit from around £15 million worth of VAT refunds every year, to be announced by the Chancellor in the Budget.

Delivering on its promise to level up the UK's regions and nations, the UK Government will bring S4C's VAT arrangements into line with UK-wide broadcasters BBC and ITN, as it will be able to recover the VAT it pays on its costs from April 2021.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak said: "S4C has become an integral part of the fabric of Welsh culture. We are determined to support the channel so it can continue to broadcast a variety of programmes for hundreds of thousands of Welsh speakers that watch it every week."

The public service broadcaster plays a crucial part in the creative industries in Wales. The Government's measure delivers on a manifesto pledge to support the broadcaster, which was founded in 1982 and has an audience of around 665,000 TV viewers throughout the UK every week.

Secretary of State for Wales Simon Hart said: "This announcement would enable S4C to continue its mission to reach the widest audience possible across a range of contemporary platforms. With S4C the primary commissioner of Welsh language programming and content, this promises to be a major boost to the sector and helps secure its future."

S4C had been relying on funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's since April 2019 to cover its VAT payments, after it became unable to recover its VAT costs following a change in its business model. The change will be made in the autumn Finance Bill, meaning that S4C will be refunded the VAT it incurs from April 2021. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will continue to cover S4C's VAT payments until then.

DL

Blue Plaque marks the birthplace of a remarkable Welshman

IN a long overdue tribute, a Blue Plaque to mark the birthplace of Iolo Morganwg, one of Wales' most charismatic cultural and political heroes, has been unveiled.

Vaughan Roderick, BBC Welsh Affairs Editor, unveiled the plaque at Penn-on, Llancarfan, on March 11 marking the 273rd anniversary of Iolo's birth. Iolo Morganwg was the bardic name of the 18th century stone-mason, poet, historian, political activist and founder of the Gorsedd of the Bards. He has been long celebrated as a man who powered culture and national pride in Wales, which endures almost 300 years later.

A modern bungalow now stands in place of the modest cottage where Iolo was born as Edward Williams, but the footings of the old building are clearly visible beneath, and the landscape around his childhood home remains largely unchanged. Last year, the Llancarfan Society launched a crowdfunding appeal to raise money for a plaque to honour this historic site. Chair Gordon Kemp said: "The village has a rich history, but oddly Iolo Morganwg's roots in Llancarfan have never been commemorated. We were delighted to be able to set this right, and were swept away by the warmth of public response."

Iolo was a self-taught polymath; antiquarian, agriculturalist, geologist, herbalist, collector of manuscripts, recorder of folk songs, story-teller, entertainer, campaigner against slavery. Vaughan Roderick said: "Every age has its own Iolo. It is astonishing that it has taken so long to raise a memorial to Iolo in his own backyard, but we are at last correcting an omission and honouring a man who is alive yet in the imaginations of many."

Former Archdruid of the National Eisteddfod, Jim Parc Nest, said: "Iolo would be full of admiration for the contemporary struggle to achieve self-respect for Wales by becoming a self-governing nation."

Leisure centre available for lease

THE Vale Council is seeking proposals for the future use of Holm View Leisure Centre.

The facility is currently operated by a management company, but that arrangement is due to end on January 1 next year.

The Council is now offering the building on a long-term lease, for use by the local and wider community and is situated on Skomer Road, just a couple of miles from Barry Leisure Centre.

Cllr Kathryn McCaffer, Vale of Glamorgan Council Cabinet Member for Leisure, Arts and Culture, said: "The current operator's contract for Holm View expires in January 2021 and it is not financially viable for the Council to continue running the centre.

"We are making the building available for long-term lease and are conscious of the important role Holm View Leisure Centre plays within the local area and are looking forward to receiving proposals for how it could be used for the benefit of the community in the future."

Visit our website for all the latest news and sports reports

Barry Town stun TNS with dramatic two-goal comeback

TWO fortuitous goals helped Barry salvage an precious point at TNS last Friday night (March 6), keeping the Jenner Park outfit in contention for European football, ahead of Saturday's crunch match at home to Bala Town (4.30pm).

On two of their past four visits to Park Hall, Barry had beaten their professional rivals by a single strike, but Friday's match invited closer comparisons with their memorable meeting of February 2019, as a Kayne McLaggon spot-kick and Jonathan Hood free-kick rescued a share of the spoils.

That day, it took mere seconds for forward Kurtis Byrne to open the scoring in the home side's favour, leaving Barry to chase the game for over 90 minutes, before it reached its classic finale.

On Friday, Gavin Chesterfield's team were in a similar position, trailing TNS from the third minute, after Dean Ebbe headed in at the near post.

They could have been ahead even earlier, had Ryan Brobbel's speculative curler not hit the top of Mike Lewis' crossbar.

Irishman Ebbe doubled his tally in the 11th minute, capitalising on some frail Barry defending at the same post to nod home, after the initial header from a TNS corner kick came back off the woodwork.

Much like the scenes of last February, the threat of a mauling loomed large, yet Barry somehow survived the storm.

While Saints were certainly comfortable, Town had a foothold after 56 minutes, when Luke Cummings' looping cross from the right flank eluded everyone and ended up in the back of Paul Harrison's net.

Nevertheless, the hosts remained a force to be reckoned with and almost crushed Barry's comeback in an instant when Ebbe, chasing his hat-trick, uncorked a powerful drive that cannoned off the post.

The former Inverness Caledonian Thistle marksman later went close with a flick and a header, but neither allowed the 25-year old to lay claim to the match ball, as Barry continued to ride their luck.

After a bold triple substitution in the 79th minute, Evan Press, Keyon Reffell and Jack Compton replaced Robbie Patten, Drew Fahiya and captain Jordan Cotterill, Compton's well-judged corner found teammate Luke Cooper in an advanced attacking role, and his Cooper's hopeful connection hit Aaron Edwards on the hip, putting it past Harrison for the game-saving own goal.

It was a dramatic yet comedic conclusion; one with a number of implications for the Cymru Premier table, as Barry remain in the hunt for third and a potential return to the UEFA Europa League stage, while TNS stay second, four points behind Connah's Quay Nomads with only six fixtures remaining.

This Saturday (March 14), Barry face that apparent make-or-break showdown with Bala at Jenner Park, an old-fashioned six-pointer that could see the space between the two sides trimmed to four points or stretched to 10.

The latter scenario would surely the death knell for Barry's aspirations of finishing third.

European entrants for four successive seasons, Bala's spot in the Europa League qualifying rounds was taken by Barry last season, following a 5-2 comeback win against the Lakesiders at Maes Tegid.

Kick-off at Jenner Park is at the later time of 4.30pm to avoid clashing with the Wales v Scotland rugby international, with admission payable on the gate at £8 (adults), with concessions available.

ASHLEY COX

Barry and District Clubs League

THE latest results from the Barry and District Clubs League are:

Crib Division 1: Liberals 10, West End 5; Romilly Railway 8, Wyndham Cons 7; Moors Boys 9, Cadoxton Cons 6.

League: Romilly Railway 153, Rhoose Social 145, Liberals 141, West End 141, Wyndham Cons 141, Moors Boys 137, Cadoxton Cons 132.

Skittles Division 1: Sea View Exiles 7, Rhoosters 0; Barries Boys 4, Allsorts 3; Barry Town FC 3, Rhoose Social B 4; Liberals C 3, Liberals A 4; Rhoose Social C 7, Slammers 0; Rugby Club 0, West End C 7; West End D 6, Cambrian Flyers 1; King William XII 1, Rhoose Social A 6.

League: West End D 112.0, Rhoose Social C 102.0, Sea View Exiles 97.0, Rugby Club 87.5, Rhoose Social A 83.5, Barry Town FC 80.0, Allsorts 76.5, West End C 76.5, Barries Boys 76.0, King William XII 74.0, Liberals C 70.5, Slammers 64.5, Rhoose Social B 55.0, Rhoosters 53.5, Cambrian Flyers 48.0, Liberals A 47.5.

Snooker Division 1: Rhoose Social C 4, Rhoose Social B 1; Penarth Cons A 1, West End C 4; Savoy B 3, Wyndham Cons A 2; Liberators 2, Cadoxton Cons B 3; Cadoxton Cons Z 3, Harbour B 2.

League: Harbour B 76, West End C 75, Cadoxton Cons Z 71, Savoy B 61, Cadoxton Cons B 59, Penarth Cons A 55, Wyndham Cons A 52, Rhoose Social C 37, Rhoose Social B 29, Penarth Cons B 28.

*Liberators 21.

Snooker Division 2: Cadoxton Cons A 3, Sully Sports A 2; West End A 2, Savoy C 3; Harbour A 2, Market Street A 3; Market Street C 3, Services Social B 2; West End B 2, Market Street B 3.

League: Market Street C 71, Savoy C 64, Services Social B 63, Market Street A 60, West End A 59, Wyndham Cons D 55, Market Street B 51, Cadoxton Cons A 47, Harbour A 47, Sully Sports A 41, West End B 37.

* = Points Deducted

View all results and league tables at www.barryleagues.co.uk.

JW

St Mary's seniors manage two competitions – despite the weather

THE St Mary's GC senior section scribe, Norman Lloyd, was quick to stress that his senior section pairs better ball win of the previous week was for the greater part, down to the excellent play of his partner of the day, the rapidly-improving Mike Tayler.

Lloyd headed the leaderboard in a singles Stableford competition played over 12 holes. The day proved to be a rare oasis of dry weather in the seemingly endless rain and attracted a decent field of 24 members. The ground remained very wet and muddy underfoot. The section's handicap secretary, Gordon Campbell, posted an early score of 27 points. Lloyd's matching 27 points with a better count-back score over the last four holes proved sufficient to rain on Campbell's parade and snatch the victory. In their second competition, 19 of their number teed off in a 'Dusty Bin' (321) stableford competition for teams of three over an even shorter course of just 10 holes. In this format, all three scores count on hole one, the best two scores on hole two and just the best single score on hole three, etc. The total number of players (19) necessitated one four ball team for which a nominated player dropped out on each hole so that only three scores were considered. Two teams tied on 43 points with the four ball team of Dave Hughes, Wayne Newton, Gareth Jones and Meic Edwards claiming the win on count-back. Graham Jones, Doug Mein and Mike Tayler were the disappointed second-placed team.

Golfers donate £1,500 to diabetes charity

ROBBIE Norris, the 2019 captain of the Cottrell Park Seniors Society, whose father had type 1 diabetes, chose Diabetes UK Cymru as the lead charity for his year in office.

His nephew, diagnosed at age 16, also has diabetes type 1 and is currently trialling the latest insulin pump. There are also a few members of the society who either have Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, which helped generate awareness around the condition. The number of people with diabetes in Wales has reached 198,883 and the country has the highest prevalence in the UK at 7.6 per cent.

The society's fundraising events culminated in a big Christmas raffle, totalling £1,500 in donations throughout the year.

Joe Cuff, the regional fundraiser for Diabetes UK Cymru said: "We were honoured to be chosen as the charity for Cottrell Park Seniors last year and are very grateful to everyone involved for raising this amount."

Isabel's Ffos Las winner

LLANCARFAN'S Isabel Williams riding Janet Davies' five-year-old *Timassini* landed the Milford Waterfront Novices' Handicap Hurdle at Ffos Las last Friday.

Timassini, one of four runners her father Evan had in the race, won by three-and-three-quarter lengths from *Another Tuco* partnered by champion jockey Richard Johnson and was returned at odds of 8-1. Isabel said: "*Timassini* has been knocking on the door and I think the fast pace helped her today."

Evan, top trainer at Ffos Las Racecourse also won the previous race, the Mare's Novices' Handicap Chase with his seven-year-old *Miss Zip* who, ridden by stable jockey Adam Wedge, scored by half-a-length from *Massini's Dream* trained by Christian Williams (no relation) at Ogmore-By-Sea and ridden by Jack Tudor. *Miss Zip* went off the 3-1 favourite.

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17 17 FIAT 500X 1.6 E-torQ Pop 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, alloys, 29k, black

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15 65 BMW 420d [190] M Sport 5dr Gran Coupe [Professional Media] M Sport plus pack, 19"alloys, white

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13 63 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 3dr, aircon, USB, white

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16 65 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCi 120 Titanium 5dr, reverse camera, DAB, grey

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16 66 BMW 640d M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 19"alloys, xenons, 29k, blue, full beige leather

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17 17 HYUNDAI i10 1.2 Premium 5dr, Hyundai warranty March 2022, cruise, Bluetooth, PDC, 7k, white

£8495 NO BUYERS FEES

17 67 BMW 520d M Sport Estate Auto (facelift) sat nav, 18"alloys, 33k, white, full leather

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16 66 FORD S-MAX 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium Sport 5dr X-Pack (7-Seater), pan roof, sat nav, 33k, black, full leather

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17 17 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI Ultra Sport 4dr S Tronic, auto, sat nav, 17"alloys, cruise, black

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18 18 BMW X3 xDrive20d M Sport 5dr Step Auto Facelift, pro nav, 19"alloys, sunstone metallic, full leather

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18 67 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line X 5dr, rear view camera, sat nav, 10k, grey, half leather

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14 64 BMW 320D XDrive M Sport Estate Auto M Sport Plus Pack 19" alloys, Harmon Kardon, 51k, black, full leather

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17 66 ABARTH 595 1.4 T-Jet 145 3dr, air-con, dab, sat nav, 27k, yellow £9495

13 63 ALFA ROMEO MITO 0.9 TB TwinAir 105 Distinctive 3dr, sat nav, 22k, grey, full red leather £5495

18 18 AUDI A3 1.4 TFSI e-tron 5dr S Tronic, Audi warranty April 2021, sat nav, heated seats, choice, half leather/alcantara £16995

18 67 AUDI A3 1.6 TDI 116 S Line 5dr S Tronic, Audi warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, DAB, Bluetooth, 27k, blue, half leather £17995

16 66 AUDI A4 3.0 TDI Quattro S-Line Estate S-Tronic, pan roof, 19"alloys, sat nav, black, full leather £19995

17 17 AUDI Q2 1.6 TDI Sport 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, 27k, tango red, full Milano leather £16995

16 65 AUDI Q3 2.0 TDI SE 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, 38k, shell white £14495

16 66 BMW 116d SE 5dr [Nav] Step Automatic, Pro nav, service pack, 19k, platinum silver £12995

17 66 BMW 118d M Sport (nav) 5dr step auto, 18"alloys, DAB, blue....£14295

16 66 BMW 225 1.5 XE Sport ACTIVE TOURER 5dr Automatic, 4wd sat nav, heated seats, 22k, white, full leather £16495

16 66 BMW 225xe Luxury 5dr [Nav] Auto, pan roof, sat nav,35k, grey, full leather £15995

16 16 BMW 318d SE 4dr, sat nav, 18"m sport alloys, privacy glass, white....£10995

16 66 BMW 320d Efficient Dynamics Sport Estate Step Auto, sat nav, DAB, grey, full leather £13995

16 66 BMW 320 D M Sport Estate Automatic, heated seats, grey, full leather £15795

17 67 BMW 320 D M Sport Shadow Edition 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, harman kardon, heated seats, blue, full leather....£15995

16 66 BMW 330e M Sport 4dr Step Automatic, M Sport + pack, 19"alloys, sat nav, choice, full leather £15995

15 65 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, through load, 38k, silver, full leather....£16795

17 66 BMW 320d [190] M Sport GT 5dr Step Auto, pan roof, sat nav, advanced parking, 19"alloys, Harman kardon, huge spec, met grey, full leather £17995

16 66 BMW 330d Luxury Estate Step Auto, sat nav, innovation pack, 19"alloys, black, full oyster leather £16995

16 66 BMW 420 D XDrive M Sport Gran Coupe Automatic, m sport plus pack, 19"alloys, sat nav, electric glass sunroof, blue, full leather £18995

17 67 BMW 420 D Sport Gran Coupe 5dr (190bhp), BMW warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 20k, black, full leather....£16995

17 67 BMW 420d (190) m sport 5dr gran coupe automatic, bmw warranty oct 2020, 19'' alloys, pro media, m sport + pack, Harman kardon, choice , full leather....£18995

16 66 BMW 430 D M Sport 2dr Convertible Automatic (258bhp), m sport plus pack, sat nav, 37k, grey, full leather £21495

16 66 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather £14495

16 66 BMW 520 D M Sport Estate Automatic, pan roof, 190bhp, sat nav, grey, full leather £15495

17 67 BMW 520 D XDrive SE 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather....£18495

16 66 BMW 640d M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 19"alloys, xenons, 29k, blue, full beige leather £21995

17 17 BMW 640d M Sport 2dr Auto, 20"alloys, sunroof, 38k, black, full ivory leather....£22995

16 66 BMW X1 2.0 SDrive D M Sport 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, black, full leather £13495

16 68 BMW X2 sDrive 20i M Sport 5dr Step Auto, BMW warranty Jan 2022, 19"alloys, sat nav, privacy glass, 5k, black....£23995

16 66 BMW X3 xDrive20D M Sport 5dr Step Auto, pro media,20"alloys, 44k, black, full leather....£20995

16 65 BMW X4 xDrive20d M Sport 5dr Step Auto, sunroof, pro media, 20"alloys, 46k, black, full leather £20995

15 65 BMW X5 3.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20"alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, carbon black, full leather £25995

16 66 BMW X5 3.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20"alloys, sat nav, m sport plus pack, 30k, grey, full leather £28995

18 18 DACIA SANDERO STEPWAY 0.9 TCE Ambiance 5dr, Dacia warranty June 2021, Bluetooth, aircon, 10k, white....£7995

15 65 FIAT 500 1.2 Vintage '57 3 dr, Bluetooth, alloys, blue, full leather....£6495

17 67 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, alloys, usb, dab, choice £6295

18 68 FIAT 500C 1.2 Collezione 2dr Convertible, Fiat warranty Oct 2021, Bluetooth, 14k, Bossa Nova white/lunar grey....£11495

17 67 FIAT 500X 1.6 E-Torq Pop Star 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 12k, black £9995

17 67 FORD EDGE 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium 5dr 4WD, Ford warranty Dec 2020, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 16k, silver with full leather....£19995

18 68 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium 5dr, Ford warranty Dec 2021, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, white....£10495

18 18 FORD FIESTA 1.5 TDCi 120 Titanium 5dr, Ford warranty June 2021, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, white £10295

10 10 FORD FIESTA 1.6 Titanium 5dr, alloys, aircon, USB, red £4295

13 63 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI 115 Zetec S 5dr, 18" Alloys, Bluetooth, 45k, white £7495

17 67 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCi 120 Titanium 5dr, Ford warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, red £9995

19 19 FORD FOCUS 1.5 EcoBlue 120 ST-Line 5dr, Ford warranty April 2022, 17"alloys, cruise, privacy glass, 9k, chrome blue £15495

19 68 FORD FOCUS 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line X 5dr, Ford warranty Feb 2022, sat nav, cruise, heated seats, 7k, black ...£16995

15 15 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 50k, silver....£9495

17 17 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr 2WD, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 37k, red £12995

17 66 FORD ECOSPORT 1.0 EcoBoost 140 Titanium S 5dr, Ford warranty Feb 2020, cruise, Bluetooth, 21k, yellow, half-leather £9495

17 67 FORD S-MAX 2.0 TDCi 180 Titanium 5dr Powershift (7-Seater) Ford warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, cruise, 23k, silver £17995

16 66 HYUNDAI i40 1.7 CRDi Blue Drive Premium 4dr, Hyundai warranty Nov 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 30k, met grey, full leather....£11495

19 69 HYUNDAI KONA 1.6 150kw GDI Hybrid Premium SE 5dr Automatic, Hyundai warranty Oct 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, only 464 miles in orange £22795

16 66 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI Blue Drive Premium SE 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, 19"alloys, pan roof, 38k, white, full leather....£18995

19 19 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.6 CRDi SE Nav 5dr 2WD, Hyundai warranty May 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 7k, grey, full leather £18795

16 66 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.7 CRDi Blue Drive Premium 5dr 2WD automatic, Pan, roof, sat nav, Bluetooth, met red,full leather £14495

17 66 JAGUAR XF 2.0d [180] Portfolio 4dr Auto, sunroof,19"alloys, sat nav, 11k, Firenze red, full leather £19495

16 66 JAGUAR F-PACE 2.0d R-Sport 5dr, 22"alloys, pan roof, sat nav, 19k, grey, full two tone leather £24995

17 67 JAGUAR F-PACE 3.0d V6 S 5dr Auto AWD (300bhp), Jaguar warranty Dec 2020, 20"alloys, sat nav, 28k, white, full two tone leather....£30995

17 67 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.0 MultiJet Limited 5dr 4WD, Jeep warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 13k, grey, full leather....£15995

18 18 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 CRD MultiJet 200 Limited 5dr 4WD Automatic, Jeep warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, privacy glass, 12k, choice, full leather £16995

16 66 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 3.0 CRD Limited Plus 5dr Auto [Start Stop] 20"alloys, sat nav, 23k, grey, full leather....£21995

16 66 JEEP RENEGADE 2.0 MultiJet Limited 5dr Automatic 4WD, heated seats, black, full leather £9495

18 68 KIA CEED 1.4 T GDI ISG Blue Edition 5dr, Kia warranty Dec 2025, sat nav, reverse camera, 8k, blue....£14995

18 68 KIA NIRO 1.6 GDI Hybrid 4 5dr DCT Automatic, KIA Warranty until November 2025, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 13k, grey, full leather....£21495

18 68 KIA PICANTO 1.25 X-Line 5dr, Kia warranty Oct 2025, rev cam, 10k, black, full leather....£9795

15 65 KIA PROCEED 1.6T GDi GT Tech 3dr, (201bhp) Kia warranty Sep 2022, sat nav, white, half leather....£10795

17 67 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T GDi GT-Line 5dr 4WD, Kia warranty Nov 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 12k, white, full leather £16495

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T-GDI GT-Line 5dr Automatic AWD, Kia warranty Nov 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, black, full leather £14495

17 17 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-4 AWD 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, cruise, reverse camera, silver, full leather....£13995

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13 13 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 ED4 Pure 5dr, sat nav, tech pack, pan roof, grey £11995

15 65 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SPORT 2.0 TD4 180 HSE Black 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20"alloys, sat nav, 28k, black, full leather £23995

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 SE Tech 5dr 4WD, sat nav, Bluetooth, 32k, choice, full leather £18995

17 17 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 eD4 SE Tech 5dr 2WD, sat nav, privacy glass, 27k, black, full leather £19995

16 16 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER SPORT 3.0 SDV6 (306) HSE 5dr Automatic 4x4, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, heated and cooled seats, black, full leather £29995

18 18 RANGEROVER VELAR 2.0 D240 R-Dynamic S 5dr Auto, Landrover warranty June 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 20"alloys, 16k, black, full leather £37995

17 67 LEXUS IS300h Advance 4dr CVT Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 17"alloys, cruise, grey, full leather £16995

12 12 MAZDA 3 1.6 Sport 5dr, heated seats, privacy glass, grey £4495

18 68 MAZDA 3 2.2 D SPORT Nav 5dr, Mazda warranty Sept 2021, sat nav, headup display, reverse camera, black, full leather £14795

18 18 MERCEDES A180d AMG Line Executive 5dr Auto, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, sat nav, heated seats, silver, half leather/alcantara £17995

18 18 MERCEDES A180 D Sport Executive 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, sat nav, cruise, dab, 9k, choice £18495

14 64 MERCEDES A180 CDI Sport 5dr, 17"alloys, Bluetooth, 48k, red, half leather £10495

18 67 MERCEDES A200 D Sport Executive 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty March 2021, sat nav, usb, reverse camera, 16k, silver £15995

18 18 MERCEDES C200 Sport Premium 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty May 2021, pan roof, sat nav, heated seats, 15k, choice, full leather £18995

18 68 MERCEDES C200 AMG Line Premium 5dr Estate 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, dab, usb, 8k, choice, half-leather £22995

18 68 MERCEDES C200 Sport Premium Plus 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 12k, silver, full leather £22995

19 19 MERCEDES C200 AMG Line 2dr Convertible 9G-Tronic, Mercedes warranty April 2022, sat nav, xenons, 6k, white, half leather/suede £27495

17 17 MERCEDES C220d AMG Line 4dr 9G Tronic, sat nav, 18 Alloys, 13k, silver, full leather £19495

17 17 MERCEDES C220D AMG LINE 2DR Auto, Mercedes warranty Aug 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 28k, white, full leather £20995

17 17 MERCEDES C220 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe Automatic, pan roof, 19"alloys, sat nav, electric heated seats, 28k, white with full leather £22995

17 66 MERCEDES C250d Sport Premium Plus Estate Auto, pan roof, sat nav, 33k,blue, full leather £18995

19 19 MERCEDES C300 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty April 2022, sat nav, reverse camera, 1k, choice with half-leather £28995

17 17 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2020, widescreen sat nav, ambient lighting, heated seats, xenons, 20k, choice £19795

18 68 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 7k, choice, half-leather £28995

17 67 MERCEDES E220 D SE 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 20k, met grey, full leather £19995

16 66 MERCEDES GLC220d 4Matic Sport Premium 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, met grey, full leather £21495

18 18 MERCEDES GLS350 D 4Matic AMG Line 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic 7-Seater, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, night pack, Harman kardon, sat nav, pan roof, 13k, white, full leather £42995

16 66 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 Cooper D Park Lane 5dr, cruise, heated seats, 18"alloys, 31k, grey, full leather £11995

16 66 MINI COUNTRYMAN 2.0 S D 5dr, chilli pack, heated seats, 18"alloys, 32k, blue £11995

16 16 MINI CONVERTIBLE 1.5 2dr, JCW chilli pack, heated seats, reverse camera, 12k, white, half-leather £12495

17 67 MINI 1.5 Cooper 2dr Convertible, Chilli Pack, 17"alloys, reverse camera, 27k, Caribbean blue, half leather £11495

17 67 MITSUBISHI ASX 1.6 3 5dr, Mitsubishi warranty Dec 2020, reverse camera, heated seats, 11k, white £11995

19 19 NISSAN MICRA 1.0 IG 71 Acenta Ltd Edition 5dr, Nissan warranty April 2022, Bluetooth, cruise, 8k, met grey £9795

16 66 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 dCi N-Connecta 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, white £8995

17 67 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta 5dr, Nissan warranty Oct 2020, cruise, Bluetooth, aux, usb, 14k, blue £12495

17 67 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-Vision 5dr, Nissan warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, pan roof, heated seats, 8k, blue, half-leather £13795

16 66 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 dCi N-Vision 5dr, panoramic roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, met green £12495

16 66NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 dCi N-Tec 5dr [7 Seat] sat nav, sunroof, black £12995

17 67 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 5dr Xtronic Automaic (7-Seater), Nissan warranty Oct 2020, pan roof, cruise, 9k, blue £14995

17 67 PEUGEOT 308 SW1.6 BlueHDi 120 Allure Estate, Peugeot warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, pan roof, 38k, grey £9795

18 68 PEUEGOT 3008 1.5 BlueHDi Allure 5dr, Peugeot warranty Dec 2021, apple car play, sat nav, grey £16995

14 64 PORSCHE MACAN 3.0 TDV6 S 4WD 5dr PDK, Sport design pack, 19"alloys, white, full leather £26995

18 68 RENAULT CLIO 0.9 TCE 75 Play 5dr, Renault warranty Dec 2022, cruise, alloys, 8k, white £8795

15 65 RENAULT TWINGO 0.9 TCE Dynamique S 5dr, sat nav, rev camera, white £5495

17 66 RENAULT CAPTUR 0.9 TCE 90 Dynamique S 5dr, Renault warranty Feb 2021, sat nav, pdc, privacy glass, 19k, black £9495

17 67 RENAULT KADJAR 1.2 TCE Dynamique Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Nov 2021, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 15k, white £11795

16 66 RENAULT KADJAR 1.5 DCI Dynamique Nav 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 14k, gold £10495

15 65 RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI GT Line Nav 5dr, sat nav, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, 42k, met red, half-leather £7995

14 63 SKODA FABIA 1.6 TDI CR 105 Monte Carlo 5dr, 17"alloys, privacy glass, silver £5995

17 67 SKODA SUPERB 2.0 TDI CR 190 Sport Line 5dr DSG, Skoda warranty Jan 2021, apple car play, 19"alloys, 7k, white, half leather/alcantara £18995

17 67 SEAT LEON 1.6 TDI SE Dynamic Technology 5dr DSG Automatic, Seat warranty until December 2020, sat nav, cruise, 8k, grey £11295

17 67 SEAT ALHAMBRA 2.0 TDI CR Xcellence [150] 5dr DSG (7-Seater) Seat warranty Jan 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 16k, grey, full leather £20995

17 17 TOYOTA CH-R 1.8 Hybrid Dynamic S 5dr CVT, sat nav, reverse camera, blue £18795

18 18 TOYOTA PRIUS+ 1.8 VVTi Icon TSS 5dr CVT Auto (7-seater) Toyota warranty Aug 2023, reverse camera, Bluetooth, white £20995

17 67 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.4T Active 5dr, Vauxhall warranty Jan 2021, 17"alloys, cruise, 18k, white £11495

15 65 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.6 CDTi ecoFLEX SE 5dr, heated seats, privacy glass, 33k, blue, full leather £8495

17 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI Blue Motion Tech GTI 5dr Automatic (220bhp), sat nav, cruise, heated seats, 10k, red £17995

15 15 VW GOLF 1.6 TDI 105 Match 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, black £7495

16 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GT Edition 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, grey £13995

17 67 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI 184 GTD 5dr DSG auto, sat nav, xenons, heated seats, 26K, GREY £18995

17 67 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI 184 GTD 5dr, sat nav, apple car play, 39k, grey £17995

17 17 VW GOLF 207 Digit Edition, 3dr, pan roof, sat nav, 33k, white £13795

17 67 VW PASSAT 1.4 TSI GTE Estate DSG Automatic (215bhp), sat nav, heated seats, 18"alloys, black, half-leather £17995

17 67 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI SE 5dr DSG Automatic, VW warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, cruise, dab, 17k, grey £18795

18 18 VOLVO V40 2.0 T3 152 Momentum Nav Plus 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, cruise, 19k, grey £13995

17 67 VOLVO S60 2.0 T4 [190] Business Edition Lux 4dr, Volvo warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 17k, blue £12995

14 64 VOLVO XC60 2.0 D4 R-Design 5dr Geartronic, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 45k, black, half-leather £14495

16 16 VOLVO XC60 D4 [190] SE Lux Nav 5dr Geartronic, sat nav, cruise, 31k, white, full leather £17995

18 68 VOLVO XC60 2.0 D4 R-Design 5dr Automatic AWD, Volvo warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, 19"alloys, 13k, met red, half-leather £26995

18 68 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.3 DiG-T 160 Tekna+ 5dr DCT auto, Nissan warranty Jan 2022, pan roof, 19"Alloys, 5k, grey, full leather

£21495 NO BUYERS FEES

18 18 MERCEDES E220d AMG Line 2dr 9G-Tronic, Mercedes warranty July 2021, command nav, 20"alloys, ambiente lighting, 27k, white, half leather/suede

£26995 NO BUYERS FEES

18 68 SUZUKI SWIFT 1.0 Boosterjet SZ-T 5dr, Suzuki warranty Dec 2021, alloys, Bluetooth, white

£7995 NO BUYERS FEES

19 69 VW T-ROC 1.5 TSI EVO Design 5dr, VW warranty Nov 2022, apple car play, xenons, cruise, 1k, grey

£21495 NO BUYERS FEES

17 67 MAZDA 6 2.2d [175] Sport Nav 4dr, Mazda warranty Jan 2020, reverse camera, head up display, 18k, blue, full cream leather

£15495 NO BUYERS FEES

18 67 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi 150 SEL 5dr, VW warrant March 2021, apple car play, LED lights, pan roof, 6k, choice

£20495 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 MERCEDES GLE 350d 4Matic AMG Line 5dr 9G-Tronic, 21"black alloys, sat nav, 21k, silver, full leather

£32995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 17 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER 2.0 PHEV 4h 5dr Auto, sunroof, sat nav, 21k, grey, full leather

£20995 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TDi BlueMotion Tech GT 3dr DSG Automatic, sat nav, 18"black alloys, dab, grey, half-leather

£13495 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTi 16V ecoFLEX Tech Line 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, 39k, white

£8995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 17 VW Golf 2.0 TDi GT Edition 3dr, pan roof, sat nav, 33k, white, half leather

£13795 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 NISSAN JUKE 1.2 DiG-T N-Connecta 5dr, exterior pack, sat nav, pan roof, 30k, blue

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18 18 MNI 1.5 Cooper D II 3dr (JCW Chili pack) 17"black alloys, cruise, DAB, 23k, red

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16 66 RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI SIGNATURE NAV 5dr, sat nav, white, full black leather

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14 BMW i3 E-Drive 60AH Automatic In met-grey, 21,000 miles, 1 owner, sat-nav etc.....**£13,495**
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15 KIA OPTIMA 3 ECO-DYNA 1.7 CRDi 5dr in silver, 26,000 miles, pan sunroof, huge spec.....**£10,995**
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Ruthless England deny Justin a shot at sports quiz immortality

By Philip Irwin
Reporter
philip.irwin@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

AS Welsh fans reflect about how depressed they should get after three defeats in a row, spare a thought for Justin Tipuric.

It's tough luck for a flanker to score two tries and finish on the losing side, but he was also close to sports quiz immortality.

The 'who handled the ball in the Baa-Baas v All Blacks 1971 game for THAT try' is a staple question, and Tipuric's first – which seemed at the time to be a huge psychological coup for Wales – could have become a similar moment.

It's true that the Baa-Baas try featured seven players, while the Welsh try had only four (five really, as Nick Tompkins handled twice) but it had all the iconic elements in it. England were so out-manouvered when they restarted the second half that they barely touched a Welsh player, apart from a despairing attempt to catch Tipuric, and it also gave the Ospreys flanker a chance to show just how quick he is. He may be in his 30s now, but he shows no sign of slowing down.

Unfortunately, to have quiz-masters asking a similar question in 40 years time, it needed to be the key moment in a thrilling Welsh comeback.

It won't be so fondly remembered now, because England ruthlessly shut the door and took the game away from Wales - just as they had during the first half.

The final score – England 33, Wales 30, was not a true reflection of the game. Wales couldn't complain that, as in the Ireland game, they saw little of the ball.

They had plenty of possession, but England's Shaun Edwards-style rush defence had Dan Biggar and his three-quarters struggling all afternoon – apart from the last five minutes when England were down to 13 players.

In contrast, England gave an object lesson in finishing cleanly and clinically, and it was no coincidence that George Ford gave the scoring pass for two of England's three tries.

Eddie Jones has left him on the bench on a number of occasions - usually when he anticipates that the opposition will send their biggest ball carriers down his channel.

With Wales committed to moving the ball wider under Wayne Pivac, Jones was happy to put his faith in Ford – and that faith was amply rewarded, as the supposedly lightweight outside half was at his very best.

He looked so much slicker than Dan Biggar, who does some things supremely well, but can't do what Ford can do. Was Biggar fully fit? Perhaps in the days to come we will find out the significance of that strapping, and why he handed over some of the goal kicking duties to Leigh Halfpenny.

It was a game that did not start well for Wales. After several minutes of tactical kicking Wales stole the ball at an English line out and attacked, but a fumbled pass meant that Maro Itoje was able to seize the loose ball and go on a 30-metre charge.

From a line out in the Welsh 22, No 8 Tom Curry fed Ben Youngs and he stopped and fired a pass to the blindside that right wing Anthony Watson took at speed. Watson's trademark is quick footwork, and he used it to beat Tomos Williams and stretched out to touch the ball down with Liam Williams clinging to his leg. Farrell's conversion made it 7-0.

Wales made a promising riposte when, after Elliot Daly knocked on, they ran the ball in the English 22. Nick Tompkins beat his man and the ball was slipped to George North and, for a moment, it looked as if the Welsh forwards were driving him over the line.

However, referee Ben O'Keefe spotted a knock on, although a prolonged bust up involving six or seven players from each side meant we had to wait to find this out.

As a result of the communal grappling, he awarded Wales a penalty and Leigh Halfpenny kicked it. It was about this time that England wing Jonny May went off for an HIA and five minutes later it was announced that he would not be returning.

As Eddie Jones had packed his bench with forwards (a 6-2 split) Welsh fans must have wondered if Eddie had been too clever for his own good.

England had much of the possession over the next 10 minutes, and Manu Tuilagi was launched at Hadleigh Parkes twice. The Welsh No 12 did well to stop him, but Wales were penalised at a ruck and Farrell extended the lead to 10-3.

Looking at my notes after the game, there were two phrases that cropped up quite often. One was 'exchange of kicks' and over the course of the game, England came out on top in that area, possibly because Henry Slade had replaced Jonny May, and he and Daly kicked long and into space very well.

The other phrase was 'penalty for high tackle' and Manu Tuilagi was the victim on quite a number. He was to make his own brand of reckless challenge, of course, later in the game.

However, the next score came after a high tackle on Josh Navidi, who showed no signs of rustiness on his return to the Welsh team. Again, it was Halfpenny who kicked it to make it 10-6.

Wales had chances over the next 10 minutes but passes went astray, perhaps due to the English line speed. Navidi had a chance to set up Parkes for one of his trademark close-to-the-line angled runs, but the pass was a bit fierce, and soon after a Welsh backs move stuttered along the line until Tompkins was isolated and England regained possession.

There was a bit more of the 'exchange of kicks' hiatus, although Owen Farrell almost put Elliot Daly clear with a pin-point cross-kick. Then, Itoje took the ball at a line out, England set up as if for a driving maul, but Ben Youngs broke instead.

There was danger for Wales and Ken Owens was penalised for a high tackle, and England used the penalty advantage to go wide, with Ford putting Daly in at the corner. It was , in theory, two against two, so George North and Leigh Halfpenny will be conducting an inquest into what went wrong.

Farrell did not miss a kick all day, so it was 17-6, and it became 20-6 after a high tackle by Parkes on Farrell gave the England No 12 another penalty.

The clock was moving into the red, but England sensed that Wales were in trouble, in particular at the scrum, and went for another score.

It was the right tactic, but the wrong result (from an English point of view) because a messy England backs move ended in Welsh possession, and another high tackle penalty gave Wales a penalty 40 metres out. This time Biggar took it, and Wales went in 20-9 down.

Was that a psychological slip up by England? Might it sow some seeds of doubt?

It looked that way when England kicked off to start the second half. Tompkins caught the ball under no presure, fed Navidi and then took the return pass and made good ground, finding Tomos Williams in perfect position to take the ball another 25 metres, before giving the scoring pass to Tipuric. It didn't look like a scoring pass at the time, as the English cover seemed to be closing on the Welsh flanker, but he had the speed to touch down under the posts.

Biggar converted. A wonderful try and surely the type of psychological blow that would trigger those old English frailties?

Not this time.

Farrell kicked a penalty to make it 23-16, and that steadied the ship.

Tomos Williams' reward for his part in the try was to be replaced by Rhys Webb, and over the next 10 minutes both sides sent on a flood of substitutes. In the case of Jake Ball, it was due to an injury, and Aaron Shingler came on to play in the second row.

The game went rather shapeless as all the subs arrived, and the phrase 'exchange of kicks' cropped up again.

An English attack in the Welsh half foundered when the ball was knocked on, but a Welsh put in at the scrum was a poisoned chalice. Wales disintegrated under the pressure of England's revamped pack, and it was another penalty, kicked again by Farrell to make it 26-16.

The game was slipping away and, after a few more 'exchanges of kicks' Wales were back defending. Slade made ground, and Ben Youngs (heading for the man of the match award) made another break. Anthony Watson declined the option of passing to the charging Tuilagi, and it looked as if England had missed their chance to make the game safe.

However, England retained possession and several phases later, big Manu was over, put clear by a slick pass from George Ford and that try took the game out of Wales' reach. Farrell's inevitable conversion made it 33-16, and England were three scores clear.

There were still 15 minutes to go and a humiliating scoreline loomed, but a mixture of English feet off the gas and Welsh pride meant that Wales did most of the attacking from this point on.

It did the possession stats the world of good, but it wasn't great from the Welsh point of view. Too many attacks were dealt with comfortably by England

There was a good break from Rhys Webb, carried on by Tompkins, Shingler and Ken Owens, and that ended with Wales having a line out five metres out.

From that, Wales launched a series of drives, and soon picked up a penalty advantage. Perhaps the moment to release the backs was never quite there, but you had the feeling that the forwards had lost a bit of faith in them and so we saw a lot of pile ups close to the England line.

There was the inevitable warning by referee O'Keefe to England captain Farrell, followed by the equally inevitable yellow card for Ellis Genge for entering a ruck from the side.

This prompted more pick and goes from the Welsh forwards but, with six minutes left on the clock, they moved it wide. It was promising, but no score, as George North was brought to ground five metres short of the line, with Daly hanging onto his legs.

In came Tuilagi at full tilt, and his shoulder came perilously close to North's much impacted head. Opinions on how dangerous a challenge it was ranged form Eddie Jones' 'nothing wrong with it' to Clive Woodward's 'it was reckless and therefore a red card'.

Referee O'Keefe opted for red and so Wales had five minutes to play against 13 men.

George North was sympathetic and gave Tuilagi a hug, which was generous, considering North's history with concussion.

The backs looked a little less stuttering against 13, although Dan Biggar would have taken some stick for going on his own if the referee had taken a different view of the grounding.

Biggar converted his try to make it 33-23, and Wales followed that with a really fluent move from the restart, almost the length of the field, going through several phases, and finishing with a very neat back-of-the-hand pass from Rhys Webb to the excellent Tipuric. Biggar's conversion made it 33-30.

Man of the match rarely goes to a player on the losing side, but there was a case to be made for Tipuric. There was also a case to be made for George Ford, but Ben Youngs did come back strong after a couple of recent shaky performances, so on balance it was a deserved accolade.

For Wales, this result has piled pressure on Wayne Pivac, and it has made the game against Scotland next week quite a big deal. This transition year was always likely to be tricky, but he seems to have a team who believe in his method.

How long will the fans keep the faith? Time will tell.

Barry and District Ladies Skittles League latest

THE latest results for the Barry and District Ladies Skittles League for March 2 are as follows:

Division 1:

Space Finders 283 (E Worthy 31) v Cigar Ladies 320 (K Billings 35); Sea View Gals 292 (S Bennett 28) v Allsorts 249 (S Greenwell 30); Coppers 303 (S Curtis 35) v Special Angels 265 (P Grinsdale 31); Cadoxton Conservative Fillies 236 (T Dyball 27) v La Belles 230 (S Bowles 25).

Division 2:

Clickies 205 (K Watts 22) v Breakaways 224 (C Skinner 25); Witchill Weebies 319 (H Aspnell, J Jenkins 32) v Persuaders 307 (M Whitehurst 32); Etcetera 232 (K Baker 25) v Colcot Ladies 200 (K Taylor 22); Family Affair 284 (S Vincent 30) v Rugby Triers 224 (June, Mandie 20) Bobby's Girls 221 (J Barnett 23) v Red Admiral 260 (G Williams 32).

Division 3:

Airways Angels 238 (M Carpenter 25) v Hillbillies 245 (D Stewart 25); Off the Rails 224 (I Rosser 27) v Livin-on-a-Spare 241 (E McLaggon, A Finn 24); Vixens 251 (M Marks 29) v Little Devils 229 (D Harrhy 26); Boozy Birds 333 (E Phillips 33) v Dolly Mixtures (G Bird gets, C Abbott 30).

Division 4:

Nite Outers 227 (M Hudson 25) v Socialites 164 (A Hicks 23); Twilights 196 (A Campbell 24) v Merry Makers 213 (H Davies 30); Down Town Gals 211 (L Wyatt 27) v Witchill Wanderers 213 (S Reynolds 28); Drifters 250 (S Lovering 29) v Westend Rollers 209 (S Carpenter 25).

Results of the Pairs Competition: Winners: Drifters (E Simmons and J Wood); second- Sea View Gals (C Gaffney and N Jones). Semi finalists: Allsort (R Dawe, S Hartford and C Jewell), Optimists (S Palmer and Jenny). Highest Roll: Red Admiral (S Hayes, H Selby) and La Belles (N and E Cordy). **AB**

Quarks and Gambits battle for League position

THE Barry Quarks and Barry Gambits teams were both in action on Monday in division 3 of the East Glamorgan Chess league.

Both teams could help one another as the Gambits were away at Caerphilly Rooks – a team with an outside chance of promotion, and the Quarks were away at the North Cardiff Ravens – a team near the bottom of the table.

The Quarks did well with Ken Hannah, Chris Green and team captain Martin Ricketts. Martin commented about how difficult it turned out to earn his win against young Khushi Bagga.

On top board, Gwyn Havard was in substantial difficulty but managed to find the right moves to earn a draw.

John Ryles also took draw meaning the match finished with a 4-1 victory for the Quarks to record their sixth consecutive victory.

The Gambits didn't fare so well. Mark Cooke on top board took a good victory. There were draws for Tom Cooke, Ian Abraham and Sam White so the spoils were shared in a 2.5-2.5 draw.

The league table shows the Quarks strengthened their promotion prospects as none of their four rivals could pick up more than three points. They sit in second place now, 5.5 points behind league leaders Pentyrch Amateurs but 4.5 points above Rhondda A in third place with only five matches to play.

The Gambits remain in sixth place but with a margin of seven points above the bottom three. Their safety seems almost assured.

Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm most at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards. New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night, but it is better to make contact through the website first so that we can arrange for someone to greet you.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

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Success for Vale teams at Welsh lifesaving championships

AT the recent Welsh Pool Lifesaving Championships, Vale Surf Life Saving Club were represented across all age groups from Nippers through to Masters.

A team of 22 Nippers, 10 of whom had never competed before, travelled to Swansea for their pool championships. Every Nipper produced personal best times in all of their races; in the Flipper race, Gethin Barber (9th), Kaiya Takata (10th), Elinor Burrows (8th). Joanie Nolan, one of the youngest team members, finished 9th. Harry Nicholas won gold and Griff Stoneham won silver. In the Manikin, Harry won his second gold and Elinor won silver. Oliver Nolan finished 9th place and both Summer Hurley and Katie Oakley knocked seconds off their previous personal best times. In the board race, Harry won his third gold medal of the day and in doing so, set a new Welsh record. Kaiya finished in 4th, Gethin 7th, Michael Habberfield 8th and Joanie 9th. Isla James, the youngest competitor, put in an impressive performance to finish 10th. Congratulations to Summer and Michael for their new personal best times in the board race. In the boys' tube rescue, Michael and Harry won gold and Kaiya and Sholah Hurley finished 6th. The Youth, Seniors and Masters combined team finished in fourth place overall (third placed Welsh club) at the end of the competition. Many personal best times were achieved and medals were won by: Layla Stamp, Bronze Manikin Carry; Emily Parker, Silver Super Lifesaver, Silver Manikin Tow; Bronze Manikin Carry with Fins; Abi Baker and Jess Peters, Bronze Rope Throw; James Blaby, Gold Manikin Carry, Gold Super Lifesaver, Gold Rescue Medley; Adam Reed, Bronze Rescue Medley; Simon Parker, Gold Rescue Medley, Bronze Manikin Tow, Bronze Manikin Carry With Fins. In the team events, the Youth team won a Bronze medal in the Mixed Pool Lifesaver Relay with the Master gaining a Bronze in the Mixed Manikin Relay. The Open team achieved a Silver medal in the Mixed Pool Lifesaver Relay, a Bronze in the Female Relay and a Bronze in the Male Manikin Relay.

The Junior team finished fifth out of the Welsh clubs competing, the Senior team finishing second and the Masters team finishing eighth, all of which contributed to the brilliant overall third position in Wales. All sections of the club are now training hard for the GB Pool Lifesaving Championships in April.

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